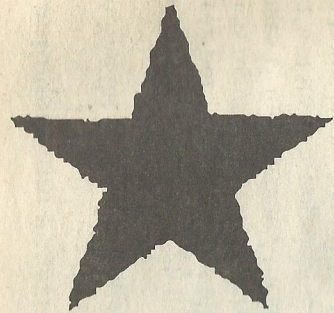


Calender of Events



EVERY SUNDAY, 5:30 PM
COALITIONA AGAINST THE INS RAIDS
Xicano Development Center (XDC)
25th and Vernor
Detroit, MI
Call 313.841.0838 for more info.

EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 1PM
UNITED COMMUNITY HOUSING
COALITION
Tenants right walk-in clinic
Downtown Detroit, 47 E. Adams
Call 963.3290 for more info.

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 9PM
LANSING ANTI-RACIST ACTION
Multicultural Center - MSU Union

EVERY WEDNESDAY 7PM
DETROIT COALITION AGAINST POLICE
BRUTALITY
Unitarian Church
Detroit, MI (corner of Forest And
Cass)
Call

EVERY THURSDAY, 6:30 PM
COALITION TO STOP THE EXECUTION OF
MUMIA ABU-JAMAL
Wayne State University
Detroit
Call 313.869.8383 for more info.

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
WEDNESDAY 9AM TO 1PM
SATURDAY 10AM TO 2PM
SIGN UP FOR MICHILD (HEALTH
INSURANCE FOR LOW INCOME CHILDREN)
AND PLUS CARE
Xicano Development Center
25th and Vernor
Detroit
Call 313.841.0838 for info.

APRIL 6TH, NOON
COALITION AGAINST THE INS RAIDS
Protest the LA 8 decision and the
stripping of constitutioanl rights of all
immigrants.
INS Building on E. Jefferson
& Mt. Elliot
Detroit
For more info call 313.841.0838

APRIL 11TH, 2PM
FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR XDC POLICE
BRUTALITY DEFENSE FUND, \$5
Xicano Development Center
Detroit
Call 313.841.0838 for more info.



APRIL 15TH, 7PM
MOVIE NIGHT AT THE XDC
"PANTHER"
Xicano Development Center
Detroit
For more info. 313.841.0838

APRIL 16TH, 9PM
MUMIA BENEFIT
DJs, Open Mic, Poetry, Spoken Word
Blue Note Cafe, 623 Grand River
East Lansing
For more info. call 517.337.3121

APRIL 24TH
MILLIONS FOR MUMIA
Philadelphia
Buses leaving from Detroit, \$55 a seat
For more info contact 313.869.8383

APRIL 24TH, 12PM
CESAR CHAVEZ MEMORIAL MARCH
Detroit, Clark Park
For more info call 313.841.0838

APRIL 25TH, 1 TO 3PM
WORKERS MEMORIAL SERVICE
Trenton, Elizabeth Park
Contact Semcosh @ 313.961.3345

APRIL 28TH, 4 TO 6 PM
WORKERS MEMORIAL RALLY & SPEAKOUT
Detroit, 1550 Howard
Contact Semcosh @ 313.961.3345

JUNE 10TH-13TH
SPACE 1999
An anarchist networking / skill-shar-
ing conference. Maintopics will be on
land and liberation.
Toledo, OH
For more info contact: 419.480.0711
(megan/amanda) or email:
SPAM1999@hotmail.com

JUNE 18TH, 4PM
COALITION TO TAKE BACK THE EARTH
Anti-Capitalism Party
Hart Plaza
Detroit
For more info contact AT at PO Box
11508, Detroit, MI 48211

*If you have any event that you
would like announced please send
them to Active Transformation-
Detroit: PO Box 11508 Detroit,
MI 48211 or AT-Lansing: PO Box
6746, East Lansing, MI 48826.
See you next time....*



Active Transformation

Vol. II Issue 3 April '99 Free
a direct action anarchist newspaper

Death By Design



THE POLICE MURDER
OF
ALDRIC MCKINSTRY
AND
THE CRIMINAL
INJUSTICE SYSTEM

Inside:

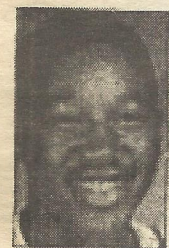
The Role Police Play • Detroit's
Development Agenda • Apartheid
American Style • Jackson Prison
(Death Camp#1) • Immigration
News • And More

Aldric McKinstry killed by police in Lansing

by traci and mark

Once again, our Lansing Police Department used questionable tactics with the shooting of an 18 year-old minority youth. The media corporations are working hard to cover up the obvious misuse of power at the hands of Lansing kkkops. The news has conveniently left out many crucial facts

when reporting this case, and also has let everyone in the capital area know the previous warrants of the victim in order to justify the uncalled-for actions by the police. The media is fully aware that if the public were to know the facts of this case, we would be angered and outraged towards the kkkops for murdering a young brother.



Police responded to a call about a fight late Saturday, January 23rd. Aldric McKinstry Jr. fled the scene in fear of being arrested on prior warrants. McKinstry broke into an outside basement to a home nearby. The only way that the basement could be entered was through the outside. Next, they sent their police dog in to attack Aldric. Aldric shot the dog, and soon after, police stormed the basement and shot Aldric over a half a dozen times with the fatal bullet landing in his forehead. Unlike the picture that the media corporations have given us, the kkkops were unaware of Aldric's previous warrants at the time of the killing, and at best, Aldric was currently guilty of breaking and entering and shooting a vicious police dog, and still lost his life to the hands of trigger-happy kkkops.

How many lives are we willing to sacrifice to the hands of power hungry kkkops? It's time to take an active stance against the Lansing Police Department's cruel acts. We must let them know that police brutality will not be tolerated in our community.

THE COPS HAVE A FUNERAL

After the death of McKinstry, the City of Lansing organized a memorial service for: the police dog that attacked McKinstry. In fact, the dog's funeral was held before Aldric McKinstry's funeral. About 500 cops and a bunch of "fellow dog officers" attended. Everybody knows that the cops don't give a shit about their "dog officers". They brutally train these dogs to become vicious and completely subservient machines. The funeral was really held to send a message to the African-American community in Lansing -- that Lansing cops could care less that you folks just lost an 18 year old son and brother, and here, we'll even rub your face in it. As one writer to the Lansing State Journal asked, "I wonder what Aldric McKinstry's parents were thinking when they saw the picture of the dog and the police at the dog's funeral in the paper. Were they reliving their dead son's last moments?"

If you include 150+ officers from Lansing, 50+ officers from East Lansing, 50+ officers from MSU, the Lansing Township police department, the Capitol Security Officers, the local division of the State Police and the local FBI and other Federal Agents... you've got one of the most heavily policed areas in the world.



Cops show their grief, with pay

Every day, the police pick up more people to stuff the jails with.

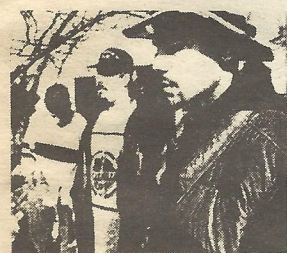
Every night, the police cruise the streets with dogs trained to attack

Every morning, the police arm themselves with 9mm semi-automatic killing machines

Every strike, the police help the scabs cross picket lines

Every year, more people die at the hands of the police

There were 600 people at McKinstry's funeral. They weren't cops who were paid to attend; they were friends and relatives; people who cared enough about the young man to pay their respects. Aldric McKinstry, or A.J. as he was called, was a human being, not a statistic with a rap sheet as portrayed by the media and the police. There were several people who wrote letters who said they grew up with A.J. and thought that he was basically a loving and kind person. Bill Walker, a neighbor since McKinstry was a boy in Holt, got restless Sunday watching friends mill on the sidewalk in Old Town -- a forest-green Cadillac hearse idling at the curb.



"Yes, its the time for mourning," he said. "But Monday

morning is the time for answers. They better have some."

THE COMMUNITY HAS A MEETING

A community meeting was held in north Lansing in the wake of the killing of Aldric McKinstry by police in late January. About 150 people showed up. 4 people from ARA (Anti-Racist Action) were there. It was organized by the Lansing group "March for Justice". ARA passed out "Your Rights and the Police", recently updated by the Brown Berets.

Many things came out at the meeting that clouded the picture of the McKinstry case.

- 1. A young man had come to Rev. Stone some months ago regarding false charges of drug possession by a Lansing police officer. Apparently the young man had been arrested for some sort of traffic violation. When he was in the elevator, a police officer announced that he was also being charged with possession. An internal investigation was launched, revealing that the charge of drug possession was false; the charge was

continued on page 3

SUPREME COURT RULES

IMMIGRANTS HAVE NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

(Washington DC, February 24th, 1999) - The Supreme Court today ruled that immigrants have no rights to object to being targeted for deportation based on their association with a political group. In an astounding decision the Court effectively denied to all immigrants in this country the same First Amendment rights that U.S. citizens supposedly enjoy.

The case arose out of the government's longstanding efforts to deport eight noncitizens for their political associations and activities. The noncitizens- seven Palestinians and a Kenyan- were arrested more than a decade ago by the INS and charged with being associated with a group that "advocate world communism," then a deportable offense under the McCarran-Walter Act. From the outset, the government has admitted that none of the eight engaged in criminal or terrorist activities, and has admitted that it singled them out for deportation based on their political ties, distribution of literature, communication with other members, and humanitarian fundraising.

The INS instituted the deportation proceedings in 1987, accusing the eight of associating with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a constituent group of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Documents in the court showed that it did so at the behest of the FBI, which urged the INS to deport the eight in order to hamper the political activities of the PFLP in the L.A. area, even though the FBI concedes it found no evidence of criminal conduct by the group.

In one document, the FBI specifically urges the deportation of one of the eight because he is "intelligent, aggressive, and has great leadership ability," and therefore incapacitation him would hamper the group.

The Supreme Court ruled that a 1996 immigration statute barred the immigrants from seeking federal court review at any time of their selective prosecution claims, and then went on to rule that this raised no constitutional problems because immigrants have no First Amendment right to object to being singled out for deportation based on their political association.

In dissent, Justice David Souter said it was "highly improbable that Congress actually intended to raise a permanent barrier to judicial reviews for aliens."

It should be made clear that this turn in the courts does not just target "illegal immigrants." It targets those that have become citizens, naturalized and are legally here, as the 8 individuals involved in this case. It strips what the rights of all immigrants and truly makes them second class citizens.

JOAQUIN IS FREE !

After a mere 25 minutes of deliberations, an all African-American jury returned a unanimous "Not Guilty" verdict for Joaquin Ramos. Their verdict was clear, you can be brown, black or white, but your still a cop!

As you read in the last issue, the case stemmed from a May day when Joaquin ran into his cousin outside of a party store. Cops rolled up within a minute and had everyone spread eagle. Although all four guys were detained against the cop car, Joaquin was completely ignored, while his three friends were ID'd and searched. When the cop returned to the car, Joaquin, in what was established to be a low, non-confrontational voice, "You guys needed to be educated about your rights". He told them that they could fight an unlawful arrest and just to keep calm and cool.

The cop responded by telling Joaquin, "Do you think you know something about your rights? Now your rights are about to be violated".

One juror said that it wasn't just one thing, but a lot of little things, that made them feel Joaquin was innocent. Other jurors felt that the case was made on the second day of trial, the day of the cops testimony. Their hesitant and bumbling language and behavior proved that they didn't live up to the expected standard of conduct for police and the prosecutor failed to prove the case, because Joaquin never interfered.

The reality is, Joaquin is an advocate, a people's rights advocate, and he not only had the right to inform people of their rights and the wrongs of local law enforcement, but perhaps he also had the duty, and the police infringed on that right.

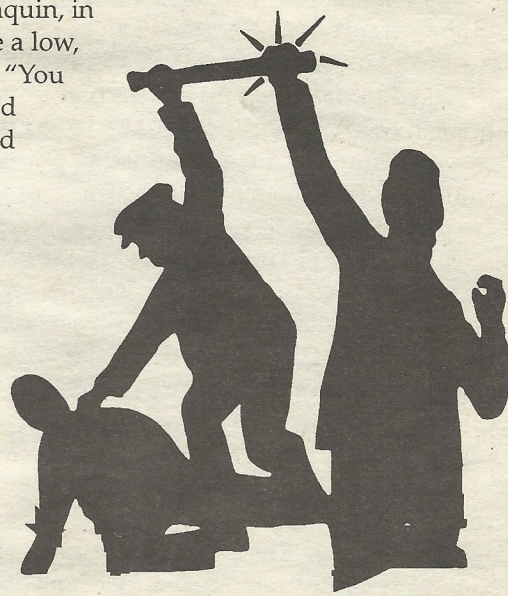
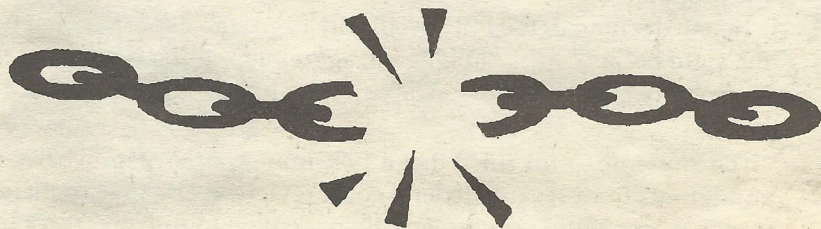


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PLEASE DON'T MAKE CASH OFF OF WHAT WE ARE DOING- WE AREN'T.

Active Transformation's Points of Unity

- 1 -Active Transformation (A.T.) is a revolutionary anarchist collective.** While not everyone in the collective is anarchist, we are all anti-authoritarian, egalitarian, and anti-statist. We are in a state where the gap between the rich and the poor grows beyond imagination. Similarly the situation that Xicanos/ Latinos, Blacks, Native Americans, etc. face grows further and further away from those in White America. The treatment of women continues to differ significantly from the privileges which men enjoy, while constraining everyone's possibilities. The divide between those who exercise power over the lives of others and those who don't is visible in the conditions of the cities in which we live.
- 2 -We feel it is necessary to react in a revolutionary manner and self-organize within the collective.** This system has nothing positive to offer except to a select few and must be kicked over in the hopes of creating a better, egalitarian society,. By us taking the steps to self-organize we expect to be successful. In securing this success we recognize that this will not happen by chance but will take discipline, determination, analysis and a developed program.
- 3 -A.T. believes in revolutionary dual power.** That is while we understand that it is important to kick over this system as soon as possible, we also understand that an egalitarian revolution will not occur unless there is something to fight for. We plan to show what the future society can look like through the development of counter institutions today.
- 4 -It is necessary to develop counter-institutions.** This will challenge both the base of the current system by addressing peoples' daily lives (thus challenging it's legitimacy) and our current social relations. Through these counter-institutions we will create other avenues towards revolution and create an accessible point for others to add their vision of a liberatory society with ours.
- 5 -We believe that revolutionary direct action is necessary to destroy our current situation.** If we wish to change the world we must address what the real problems are, and to change them we must attack them at their root. To directly act on the problem in a way that would change our social relations in a revolutionary manner is revolutionary direct action.
- 6 -We are calling for an international mass movement organized locally in cells, collectives, etc.** These groups should have disciplined members and clearly defined points of unity. We not only encourage these developments but see them as essential for the creation of a truly revolutionary force in our lifetime. Only through these entities can each of us give our voice to the future social revolution.
- 7 -We feel that autonomy and solidarity are two sides to the same coin.** Autonomy gives individuals and groups the right to organize independently in formations that are not oppressive to others. Solidarity says that others shall respect that right to organize and that we will struggle along side them in the realization that our freedom and liberation is tied to that of others. Solidarity without autonomy can lead to nothing but reforms or authoritarian changes in power; not true liberation.
- 8 -We believe in self-defense.** We feel that philosophies of violence and non-violence are tactical questions and when used definitively they tie ones hands. Although A.T. may find violence necessary to defend itself and others they are in solidity with; it does not condone all forms of violence. Rape, queer bashing, racist attacks, working class on working class violence and theft are all unexcusable and will be stood up against, even if people consider themselves to be part of our "movement."
- 9 -We feel it is necessary to organize.** We will organize to make social revolution possible. We will organize in our neighborhoods to defend our communities against the occupying force called cops. We will organize in our workplaces to develop workers' solidarity. We will organize to fight back against the class war that we loose at every day until we have gained the means of production. We will organize to create counter-institutions that will provide the community with what it needs in the spirit of human dignity and mutual aid. We will organize, educate, and confront racism, sexism, and homophobia in society until it is eradicated. We will educate and share the resources necessary for others to organize. We will organize to the point that social revolution seems inevitable; then we will exercise all our force and execute this rotten system, building a new egalitarian society in it's place.

continued from page 1

dropped. It isn't clear whether the officer was ever disciplined for this. **The same officer was involved in the killing of Aldric McKinstry.**

•2. Although the police reported in the State Journal earlier that they felt that they had to attack the suspect in the basement to insure the safety of the two occupants of the house; in the report by the prosecutor, it is obvious that the occupants of the house are not in any danger. In fact, the prosecutor does not use this reason to justify the attack on McKinstry.

•3. In the report of the Ingham County Prosecutor, there was only a single sentence reporting that the suspect, McKinstry was shot. There is no elaboration on how he was shot, where officers aimed, anything that happened in between 18 shots fired.

•4. There was an autopsy performed on McKinstry, and two autopsies performed on the dog. There was no information from those autopsies included in the report. Was the dog shot from the back or front? It is unclear from the report whether McKinstry shot once or three times.

•5. Early reports from the State Journal implied that the dog jumped up and took the bullets meant for the police. This has been proved untrue. The dog was separated from police when it was shot. In fact, it appears that the police were looking down into the basement when the dog was shot in the basement.

•6. In the report, there is no reason given as to why the police went in the basement.

•7. On the same day as the killing, Dunning, the person who wrote the report, stated in the State Journal that the killing "appeared to be justified". He had apparently made up his mind what his decision would be before he had looked at the evidence.

More information came out at the meeting that pertains to police brutality in the Lansing area:

A Lansing man came forward to talk about the scars that he received as an 11-year-old child by a police dog. It also happened that he was out getting his mail recently when a "canine cruiser" went by. The dog in the car jumped straight at him with it's mouth open. Luckily, the window of the cop car was closed. The dog smashed into the window and recoiled back.

A Mr. Bozak spoke. His mentally handicapped son was shot and killed by Lansing area police a few years ago. His son had burned down his own house. At the time he was shot he posed no threat to anyone except himself. He had a pistol. Police had established communication with him before he was shot. The family was at the scene and asked repeatedly if they could talk with their son. The police told them that the son did not wish

to talk to anyone. The police rushed the son and killed him. Weeks later, the family learned the son had asked the police repeatedly to talk to his family before the shooting. The family would not only have had a connection with him but would also have been able to give him the medication that he needed.

The father of Jesse Tijerina came forward. He briefly reported on how the police had killed his son under suspicious circumstances a couple of years back. He gave no details but thanked the group for coming together over this issue.

A man talked about how recently he and his brother were stopped by Lansing police. The officer suspected them of committing a crime. They were later cleared of any wrongdoing. However, while the brother was following the officer's directions to back up, the car scraped or hit a culvert and the brothers could hear the officer snap a bullet into the chamber of his gun. It was a tense feeling and it was easy for him to see how someone could easily be killed.

Several people came forward and told of how their sons had been arrested and taken into the police station for situations like unpaid parking tickets and other trivial matters. Others told of how their sons would get stopped by the police whenever they drove the family car. They detailed how they would change cars to try to find one that would make it less likely for their teen to get stopped; it didn't work. Black families in Lansing have to make plans with their children on what to do if they are stopped and/or arrested by the police.

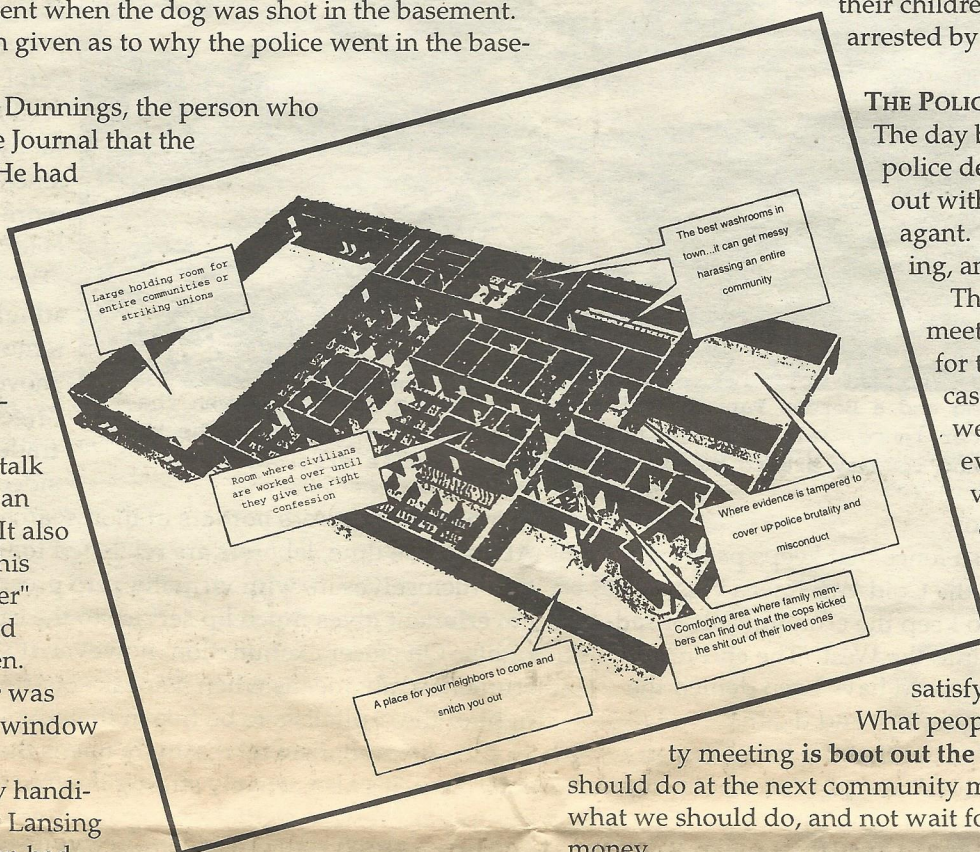
THE POLICE STATE IS GROWING...

The day before Aldric McKinstry was killed, the police department and the real estate tycoons came out with their plans for the north side. It is extravagant. It is over the top. Our police state is growing, and what can we do about it?

The politicians that came to the community meeting have only one word for us...wait. Wait for the results of the investigation. Wait for the case to go through this or that process. Then we'll consider it. Wait for us to consider the evidence. Wait for us to find out what the voters want... All lies! It has just been announced that General Motors will pay no property taxes for any new plants in Lansing. The big corporations get what they want anytime they want. The whole system we live under is a system built to satisfy the rich and powerful; not the community.

What people should do next time we have a community meeting is boot out the politicians, not invite them. What we should do at the next community meeting is make up our own minds about what we should do, and not wait for an election that is based on who has the money.

To get involved with the fight against police brutality in the Lansing area contact Anti-Racist Action at: Lansingara@hotmail.com or write PO Box 6746, East Lansing, MI 48826



Cops and Money.....Money and Cops

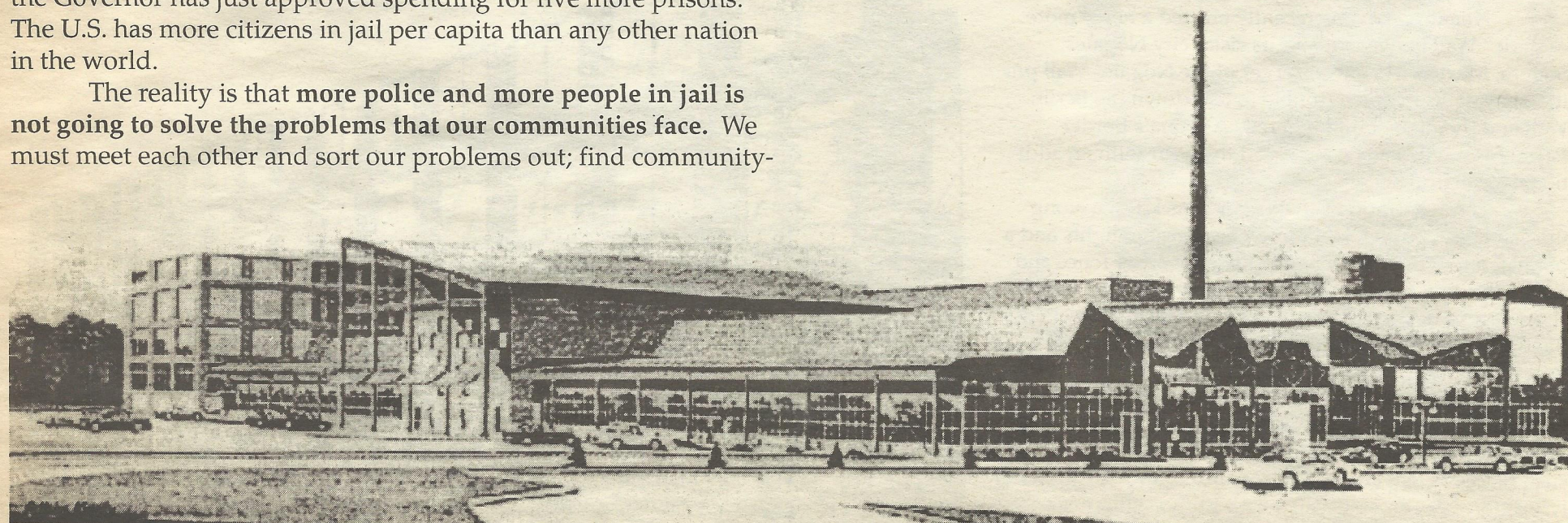
The Lansing City Council has voted 5 to 3 to put forward a plan to give real estate developer Harry Hepler the go-ahead to renovate the Prudden Building to lease space for a Northside Police Substation. Over the next ten years, this **Northside Police Substation will cost the City of Lansing an extra 3.4 million dollars.** This is happening at the same time that the City Council unanimously approved **charging kids 50 cents a time just to swim at our public swimming pools.** The fee was withdrawn only after upset residents called in repeatedly to the Mayor's office.

This is happening while Michigan's jails are full; in fact, the Governor has just approved spending for five more prisons. The U.S. has more citizens in jail per capita than any other nation in the world.

The reality is that **more police and more people in jail is not going to solve the problems that our communities face.** We must meet each other and sort our problems out; find community-

based solutions, rather than increasing surveillance of citizens.

Two years ago, when the City Council began talking about a Police Substation here, a group of concerned citizens petitioned the neighborhoods of the Northside. Of the 1,000 people surveyed, 700 did not want more police. Has a lot changed since then? Even after police brutality took the lives of Jesse Tijerina and Ed Swans, the City Council and the Mayor still believe that the answer to police brutality is more police. **Consider the cost of more police: over 3.4 million of your tax dollars and human life. Can we really afford it?**



Artist rendition of Lansing's new Temple of Doom

On June 12, 1987, the poster child of neo-fascist zealotry, Ronald Reagan, paid a visit to what was then West Berlin. With the graffiti-encrusted Berlin Wall and historic Brandenburg gate as a backdrop, the former U.S. president challenged then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with this impassioned plea:

"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

As the world knows the infamous Wall came tumbling down almost 2 1/2 years later in November 1989. Germans referred to the Berlin Wall as the Schandmauer - "the Wall of Shame" - an appropriate name for any manmade device erected by a nation to hem in people like so many cattle.

Now fast-forward to present day America and its southern border with Mexico. The demise of one monument of oppression has merely resulted in the birth of another one - the American Wall of Shame. The fenced perimeters of Southwest U.S. border towns and crossings resemble the formerly entrenched border fortifications that separated Eastern Europe from Western Europe. What was such border fortifications represent depends largely upon your perspective. In other words, which side of the fence you're on.

A fence that keeps people out is also a fence that keeps people in. Let's suppose for a minute that back during the Cold War it was West Germany that erected border fortifications to keep the economically disadvantaged East Germans from crossing over into the West. The end result would have been basically the same: People would have been denied the opportunity for a better life; instead suffering misery and death.

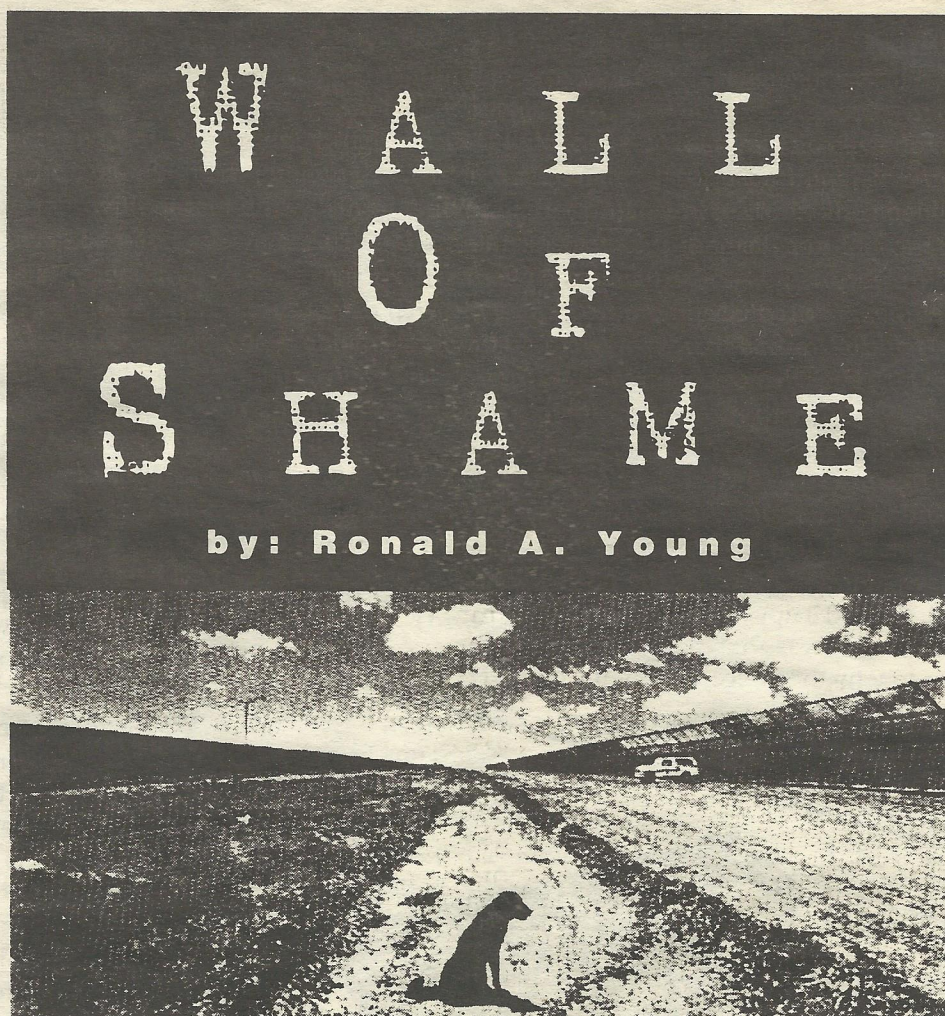
Oh, BUT the hair-splitters like to point out that the East Germans were attempting to escape "political persecution" and not "economic deprivation." I tend to believe they were escaping both. You cannot divorce economics from politics. The two are intertwined and cannot be separated. The situation along the U.S.-Mexico border is no different. These people are suffering economic deprivation caused by political cronyism.

Under the guise of our authoritarian government's "war on drugs" (which is really a war on the underclass), as well as its long-standing policy of discriminating against immigrants of color, there is a massive U.S.-led militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border. It's all so reminiscent of what the world just got rid of in Europe. This militaristic buildup is being led by Congress, in large part, by neo-fascist cheerleaders Kay Bailey Hutchinson and Phil Gramm, the two Republican senators from Texas; along with U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican who heads the house immigration subcommittee. Typical of the immigrant-bashing right-wing movement, they all speak so eloquently against repressive regimes abroad while fermenting the militarization of American society.

In Texas, the Border Patrol's enforcement project, called Operation Rio Grande, is lining 31 miles of the Rio Grande river with floodlights. Additionally, Texas will get 500 more Border Patrol agents this year to bolster the already small army of 3,433 patrol agents now on the Texas-Mexico border. Most of these agents will be assigned to Operation Rio Grande. The U.S. government also reached a settlement last year to pay \$1.9 million to the family of Esequiel Hernandez Jr., a teenager who was murdered by a U.S. Marine patrol along the Texaco-Mexico border on May 20, 1997. Esequiel was gunned down in the same manner as those persons murdered at the hands of East German border troops.

Nogales, Arizona recently erected a new "more esoteric" Wall between it and its sister city Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. As one observer of the Nogales Wall put it, "They go to so much trouble to tear down the Berlin Wall and then they build it here." Arizona's Border Patrol force will also be increased this year with an additional 395 patrol agents.

The "Operation Gatekeeper" crackdown along the San Diego border, including new fencing, lights and a parallel unpaved road between the old border fence and a new "backup fence" would give any veteran of Berlin a sever case of deja vu blues. The scorched land between the two fences is a spitting image of the "kill zone" the East German military established along its border fortifications. The Los Angeles Times reports that "new fences and roads, plus lighting, ground sensors and other technology, have been key building blocks of enforcement in such places as San Diego; El Paso, Texas; and most recently, California's Imperial Valley and Brownsville, Texas." The Border Patrol is drawing up plans to guide the construction of additional border fortifications for the next



A dog and a Border Patrol vehicle are in no man's land between the old border fence, left, and the new one, near Tijuana, Mexico. The barrier and roadway are to be extended along a 14-mile stretch.

five years.

The majority of border construction is being done under the auspices of Joint Task Force-6, a Texas-based Department of Defense military command instrumental in the border militarization process. "Since 1994, JTF-6 has built or repaired 340 miles of border roads and put up 35 miles of fencing from Texas to California." This year another 300 miles of patrol roads are planned for construction. JTF-6 works along the entire 2,000 mile border corridor that runs through California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. "The road and backup fence, a curved steel barrier dimpled like a cheese grater, already taking shape along the fields near the Otay Mesa port of entry east of San Diego." The San Diego project, which also calls for National Guard assistance, will eventually construct 14 miles of backup fence and parallel unpaved roads - more kill zones. The INS alone is budgeted to spend \$3.9 billion for 1999.

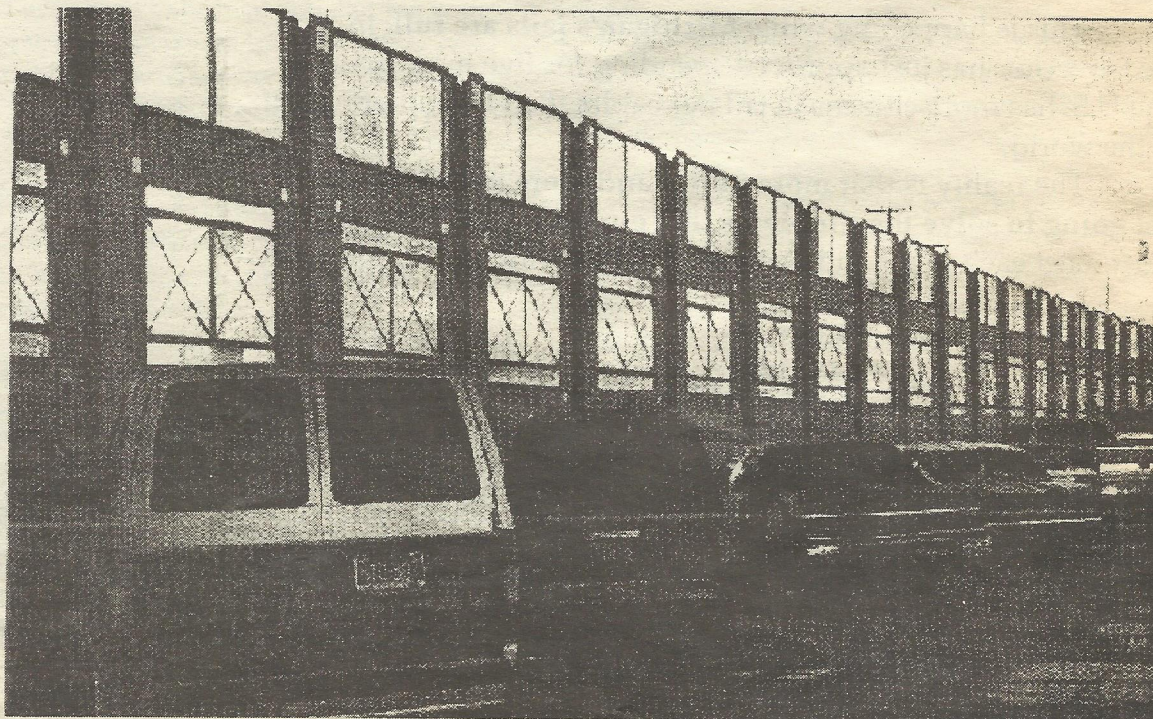
The United States has actively assisted multinational corporations in removing borders that hinder the free movement of capital and goods. The "free market" envisioned by such trade agreements as NAFTA are one-sided affairs that allow corporations

to move freely across borders in their search for the cheapest labor to exploit. At the same time, laborers are relegated to whatever workers' hell they may find themselves in, with virtually zero prospects for a better life. The U.S. government gives much lip service to the cause of freedom and human rights. On closer examination, however, it's easy to see that what our government really means when it speaks of "freedom" and "human rights" is the right of the capitalists to be free in their exploitation of humanity.

As capitalism increasingly opens the world as one big free market enterprise, it's also actively stifling the free movement of workers. Even in Europe, as Western capitalism expands into the former Soviet-bloc, talk is increasing about raising new Iron Curtains against immigrants, generally those of color. In being duped through the malignant disease of nationalism, workers in more prosperous parts of the world have been led to believe that these immigration barriers somehow protect their jobs and livelihoods. In reality, the exact opposite is true. Such workers blockades not only inhibit the movement of people, but also allows for the maximum exploitation of laborers by the capitalists. And, in doing so, such schemes actually threaten workers' jobs and livelihoods, since corporations are now free to create disparities in wages which means production will eventually move to the area with the cheapest wages. In the end all workers lost out.

We must bring an end to such oppressive measures as closed borders and immigrant-bashing. All workers of all colors and nationalities must begin to see that the real enemy of workers worldwide is capitalism and its corporate elite. They purposely foster and incite the hate and division between workers of the world. We must no longer allow ourselves to be manipulated in such a sinister way. We will bring down the Walls of Shame that separate us only when we unite together as workers in solidarity, brothers and sisters all, and attack the root cause of all our troubles - capitalism and its exploitation of humanity.

(Various articles from *The Houston Chronicle* were as a source for some of the information contained in this article.)



The Nogales Wall was completed at a cost of \$750,000 to replace three blocks of a steel fence

Coalition Against INS Raids

holds Teach-In, builds "I.N.S. Free Zone" Campaign.

The Coalition Against INS Raids has grown to include more immigration activists, practitioners, National Lawyers Guild members, Brown Berets and A.T. members. Meetings are held Sundays at the Xicano Development Center at 6 p.m (call 313.841.0838 for more info.)

The Coalition has developed a broader base, and members are now considering the next course of action to take in facing the INS threat in Southwest Detroit. The "INS Free Zone" campaign was developed in California. Local businesses are asked to put signs in their windows requiring INS to produce warrants when entering stores. The purpose is to create an atmosphere of community disapproval and resistance against random INS interrogations on the streets and near community businesses. The campaign would be limited by a few months, to give activists and the community a period to evaluate accomplishments and errors.

The Teach-In, held Saturday January 30, at St. Anne's Church, drew many active people from within the community. Nora from the Brown Berets de Aztlan presented a Xicano look at the history of Mexican immigration. Tracing the history of the land treaties and the encroaching US border, she gave an exposing review of US words and actions that have continually

annexed the land and rights of Mexicans in North America. Ishmael from ACCESS Arab Community center discussed early anti-immigration laws. He explained how many eastern immigrants were arbitrarily classified "Asian" and suffered harsh anti-Asian immigration laws and a general racist sentiment in the 1930 and 40's. A University of Detroit student recalled a raid on Mexican Industries in 1994 in which she and others witnessed forceful physical restraint used in "detaining" people at their places of



employment.

The afternoon session began with an update on "Secret Evidence" immigration laws being used against the Arab Community. The case of Imad Hamad was discussed by NLG immigration attorney Noel Saleh. Hamad, the head of the Arabic Defense Coalition, was charged under a law that does not give him, nor his attorney access to the evidence used against them. The Judge, who has full access to the information, generously ordered a "declassified" version of the evidence. The accusation found within was that Hamad supported an organization that contributed medicine and other aid to Iraq, or a certain "guilt by association." Hamad, a community leader in Dearborn has a wife with permanent status, and US born children with citizenship. Finally, Coalition members gave an overview of your rights and responsibilities when coming into contact with INS officials, labor grievances and protection in employment under workers compensation and a comparison of powers held by local police and INS, federal officials.

Thanks goes to Rolando Garcia at Mestizo Productions for filming the event.

Look-out for more fund-raiser dinners at the XDC, and thanks for the support!

The Coalition and the Xicano Development Center have recently found some consistent and favorable coverage in local media including WDET, the Metro Times, and the Flat Rock cable access Xicano-only show "Voces y Visiones" (Mondays at 6pm and 10 pm).



SLAVES OF THE STATE

by: Paul Wright

Many people have the mistaken impression that slavery was outlawed or abolished in the United States after the civil war after the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment.

Unfortunately, that was not the case. The Thirteenth Amendment reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction." The effect of the Thirteenth Amendment was not to abolish slavery but to limit it to those who had been convicted of a crime.

The reality was made apparent in the aftermath of the civil war when large numbers of newly freed Black

slaves found themselves "duly convicted" of crimes and in state prisons where, once again, they labored without pay. It was common practice for state prisons to "lease" prison labor out to private contractors in a modern form of chattel slavery. This situation led the Virginia Supreme Court to remark in an 1871 case *Ruffin v. Commonwealth*, that prisoners were "slaves of the state." All that has changed since then is that the state is less honest about its slaveholding practices.

Until the 1930s most state and federal prisons were largely self-sufficient, producing most of the goods and foods they consumed and even producing a surplus, for sale, of food and some industrial products. In many states prisoners even served as

continued on page 13.

IMMIGRATION NEWS BRIEFS

"DRIVING WHILE MEXICAN" CLASS-ACTION SUIT PROCEEDS AGAINST BORDER AGENTS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

The US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2 to 1 on Jan. 12 that a case alleging civil liberties violations by the US Border Patrol in highway stops can go forward as a class action. The lawsuit, filed by motorists Panchita Rodgers Durgin and Antonio Lopez, charges that Border Patrol agents have engaged in a pattern and practice of stopping motorists of Latino appearance without reasonable suspicion of a crime on the highways of southern Arizona. The new ruling reversed a June 1997 decision by US District Judge John M. Roll who had claimed that the plaintiffs lacked standing to bring the case and concluded that the litigation would be unmanageable because of a "potentially staggering" number of witnesses.

Armand Salese, the Tucson attorney who represents the motorists, said the case was based on witness statements and government records, including Border Patrol reports and telephone logs. "The Hispanic community cannot drive between Nogales, Tucson and Phoenix without a good chance they will be stopped by a Border Patrol agent, simply because they look like Mexicans," Salese said. [Los Angeles Times 1/13/99]

ARIZONA HIGHWAY SWEEPS CHALLENGED IN 2 MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SUITS

Two multimillion-dollar lawsuits (one for 35 million) have been filed against the city of Chandler, Arizona, in connection with an immigration enforcement operation carried out jointly by Chandler police and US Border Patrol agents from July 27 to 31, 1997. According to a report released by Chandler city officials on Nov. 25, 1998, police agents were inadequately prepared and poorly supervised when they unlawfully stopped and interrogated US-born Hispanics and legal immigrants during the five-day sweep. The report was based on a 9-month-long, \$145,000 investigation ordered by the City Council. [Arizona Republic 11/26/98]

IMMIGRANTS LOWERED TO 2ND CLASS STATUS IN SUPREME COURT RULING

2/24/99

The recent Supreme Court decision denies immigrants protections afforded to US citizens. The government has eliminated their guarantees to exercise their right to be free from political repression. Immigrants are now deportable at the will of the INS if they chose to speak-out against the atrocities of this or any country. In effect, immigrants will be treated as suspect and subject to even more selective and arbitrary treatment based on the color of their skin. Now "reasonable cause" will be based on such arbitrariness.

Marc Van Der Hout of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) noted that Scalia's opinion "relegates immigrants to a second-class status that is reminiscent of the political witchhunts of the McCarthy era... Our nation of immigrants is now being forced into political silence, chilled from speaking out about injustices in their homeland and this country." [Joint News Release 2/24/99]

Immigration News Brief, which is a monthly supplement to Weekly News Update on the Americas was used as a source for most of these briefs. It's published weekly. E-mail them at nicaig@panix.com for a free trial subscription

Old Miami Bar

3930 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
(313)-831-3830

Mondays: Free Pool Table All Night!
Thursdays: B-Movie Night

Upcoming Shows:

April 2nd: Benefit for Mumia Coalition
The Puritans from Calgary - Forge
- Almighty Groove - Harms Way -
Fudge Gun The Slow Pokes
4-3 Bullseye Virus - Games
American Revolution
4-9 Double Brown - Marsh - Lord Mud
4-10 Vel Tones - Wireless Green
4-14 from England: Miles Hunt, formerly lead singer of Wonder Stuff - Beemship

4-17 Dreaded Apparatus - Elephant Ear - Goo Loo from Chicago
4-24 Mud City Menglers - Hard Liquors

May Day 5-1 1st Tour in 20 Years! Writer of "Eve of Destruction", "Secret Agent Man" - many more! From California P.F. SLOAN (only show in MI)

5-7 CD Release Party: Lygrot 24 (ska-punk band)



DETROIT'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

By now everyone in Michigan knows the legendary details of Detroit's plans to give away some of the city's most valuable land (monetarily and culturally) in an effort to shock the urban center into another "renewal" phase of growth. As with other failed attempts at urban revitalization in the '80s and '90s in such places as Detroit, Flint, Cleveland, and Toledo, such large scale development makes money for a few at the expense of poor and working people, small business owners, and long-term residents. The facts are all well known and repeated with bitterness and rage by progressively minded people throughout the State.

THE HEIDELBERG PROJECT

Unfortunately, because of the big stories of duel stadia and casinos, many smaller details of the City's assault on its citizenry have gone unana-

as simply as most politician's motive's, several questions still linger: why destroy a world renowned art project? Why pretend to act concerned about the neighborhood when city owned properties are left setting vacant, open, and subject to frequent arson?

The last question is the easiest to answer. The Mayor (who once on a time donated a pair of shoes to Guyton's "Soul Tree"), Kay Everett (who years ago did a campaign commercial at the Project) and the other lap dogs on City Council--Gil Hill, Sheila Cockerell, Nicholas Hood, and Clyde Cleveland--allege to be responding to an outcry among Detroiters against Project, complaining of it harboring super-rats, causing traffic jams, and creating an eye-sore. In reality this community sentiment has been generated by a rather small group of residents first organized in the Gratiot-Hunt Citizen's District Council by Janice Harvey back in '90-'91. In late '97 the Gratiot McDougal Development Corporation, led by Harvey, got their wish and the

City turned squarely against the Project and authorized the Project's removal. Unfortunately no one in either of Harvey's groups understood that making such a deal with the City could end in the loss of their stake in the neighborhood.

THE GRAYMARK DEVELOPMENT

A battle has been raging south of Jefferson along the Detroit river. Although conflicts over the casino development planned for Rivertown are of great concern, the precedents being set by the Mayor in his agenda for the Graymark Development surpasses all previous limits set in his equivocations and duplicity regarding the casino development and location.

The Graymark Development is yet another conception of the Mayor to instantly bring more tax money into the City coffers. In this case the City is buying up privately owned property along the river under the City's power to declare eminent domain. By declaring the surrounding neighborhood "urban blight" the Mayor has given the City legal authority to

condemn citizens' property and force them to sell (without competitive bidding) to a for-profit housing developer, the Graymark Corporation--a company which just happens to employ Dennis Archer Jr. The Graymark corporation will subsequently level the purchased property and build strictly upper-income single family homes.

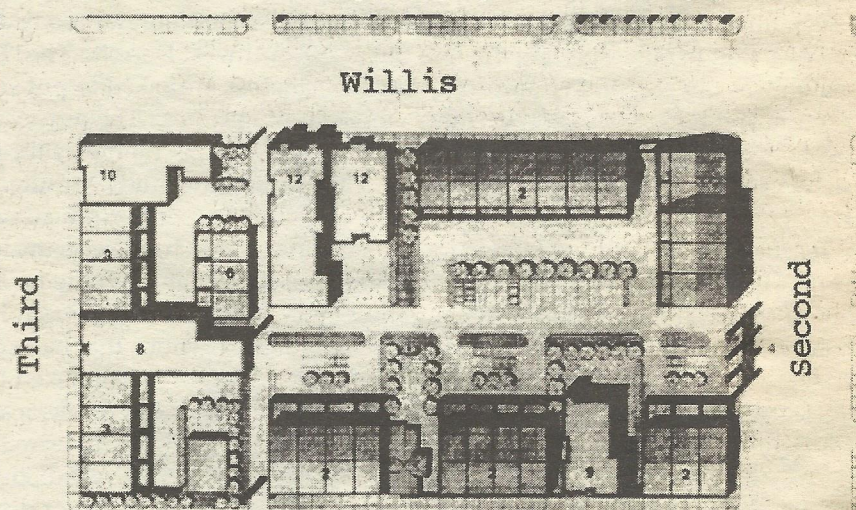
Members of the Citizens District Council (CDC) representing the area effected by the development were never formally notified prior to the City Council's vote to approve Graymark's development plans. Due to the City Council's summary approval the Mayor's plan last year, the City has been able to frighten many people into selling their houses for less than fair prices. Recently, however, there has been a groundswell of opposition to the Development as residents find that the prices their homes are being assessed at are far below the current housing market in Detroit. As a result several residents have flatly refused to sell their homes and are planning to challenge the City's obvious abuse of eminent domain laws to promote a haines form of gentrification.

Several Lawyers with the National Lawyers Guild and the Sugar Law Center are mounting an attack on behalf of these remaining residents. The lawyers are challenging the Mayor's contention that the City's right to use eminent domain extends to the forced displacement of middle and low income families to make room for the wealthy--a model which equates one's public worth with the tax dollars one generates. The CDC members are insisting that in order to declare eminent domain the City must hold

up the burden of "acting in the public good." Clearly, however, the City's plan just maintains the status quo of classist and racist urban planning which has more than once before brought the people of this city to their knees.

WEBER BLOCK

The Weber Block is a Cass Corridor housing development proposed Bob Slattery, president of



Development model for Weber Block

Midtown Development--with offices on the south corner of Cass and Willis. Slattery has the City's support to build an upper-income condominium development in the block between Second and Third, Alexandrine and the alley north of Willis. The Condos would run from \$130k - \$250k. Part of Slattery's development agenda has been to quietly have the area bounded by Seldon, Hancock, Cass, and the Lodge declared a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone in order to significantly lower property taxes for new development condominiums.

Although Slattery announced his development plans for the Weber Block in 97, he has now gained the blessing of Detroit's Planning and Development Department and the Mayor's Planning Commission. He is eager to push the sale of City owned property through City Council, and with his funders in place, he will start buying out individual property owners--including 3 fully occupied multi-unit apartments on the effected block of Alexandrine and Willis.

Slattery's intention is to evict the current tenants of the apartments and rehab these buildings into upper-income condos. With the addition of two new construction warehouse-style condominiums on 2nd facing the Tom Boy supermarket, and in-fill of row-house style condos along Alexandrine, Willis, and 3rd, he intends to build up a hard wall around the block to eliminate vagrancy complete with key-code entry to the inner block.

Several voices in the Corridor have thus far have strongly expressed the right of low and middle-income people to remain in the upper Cass Corridor. In a February 19th hearing before City Council Brenda Smith of the University District "A" CDC put the situation thus: "If you are low income, you have a right to stay in the city. We want a mixture of different races and incomes. We don't want apartheid." Smith also told City Council that the University "A" CDC had not been informed of Slattery's most recent plans and had never been included in any of Slattery development. At the very least, she suggested before Council, the residents should be sought out for their opinions and concerns.

With the City recently passing a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone for the Weber Block development, it is unclear whether Bob Slattery will attempt to have the Mayor and Council declare eminent domain as they did in Graymark. Some residents of the Cass Corridor have been getting organized in opposition to Slattery's outrageous development agenda. They agree with Brenda Smith that the Corridor should remain a space of diversity and freedom. In addition, they believe that the neighborhood should retain much of the open space which has been the result of abandonment and decay; the land could be used for parks and urban gardening. Look for public meetings in the Corridor this spring concerning the growing threat of Detroit's development agenda.

The author wishes to acknowledge the reporting of Ron Siegal in the Michigan Citizen for on-going coverage of these stories



City worker removes Mayor Archer's shoes from the Heidelberg Project

lyzed, although the battles continue. Of particular concern to me over the last year has been the Mayor's ever more vigilant attempts to remove the source of all those colorful dots popping up on many of the city's abandoned buildings and houses.

The Heidelberg Project--on Heidelberg and Mt. Eliot--was founded 13 years ago with the vision and will of Tyree Guyton and his grandfather Sam Mackey. For those who have visited the Project over the years it has provided a spiritual balm for the ills faced in a city full of urban decay and abandonment. I think the quote on the Heidelberg web site (www.heidelberg.org) by Dr. Alfonzia Maclin describes this experience better: "The Project is a gigantic artist array of universal coloration! People of all races, creeds and colors are drawn to the project and leave with a positive testimony of edification. For me, personally, the project is the zenith of resurrector activity, if one is fortunate to see what is made available."

Since the beginning of February the Heidelberg Project has literally become a zenith of resurrector activity. On several of the trees which were stripped of their artifacts, Tyree has hung several American flags at skewed angles, playing on the multilayered codes of the OJ (Obstruction of Justice) house. Also Tyree has taken his art to the streets with greater force. True to his promise on the night of the demolition, he has aggressively pursued his vision to polka dot the entire city. Although the duplicity and deceit of the politicians who schemed against the Project can be described

SUPPORTS OF RUSSIAN ANARCHIST NEWSPAPER

"UTOPIA" ARRESTED, 2 UPCOMING ISSUES SEIZED,

INTERROGATIONS CONTINUE

FROM A - INFO NEWS SERVICE

On February 2 in Moscow officers of the Federal Security Service (former KGB) held searches and interrogations as part of the so-called "Krasnodar affair". On November 28 three people were arrested in Krasnodar, Southern Russia. Gennady Nepshikuyev, 17 years old, and Maria Randina, 23 years old, were arrested and charged with possession and production of explosives, third person, citizen of Czech Republic, was later released and extradited from Russia (the first two are still under arrest).

So far there is information of at least two searches held in Moscow on February 2 held in flats of Larisa Schiptsova and Vlad Tupikin. After a search was held in Larisa's apartment for a few hours she was arrested and transferred to Lefortovo (KGB) prison in Moscow. At this point there is no further information on the details of her arrest (there are reasons to believe that she is charged at least with possession of drugs).

The search held at Vlad's place lasted for 7 hours, as a results of this his computer, printer, letters for the last 3 years, all photos, diaries and notebooks, floppy disks and materials of the first 2 and an upcoming issue of Utopia magazine were confiscated.

During the search the following violations were registered by Vlad: the search was held simultaneously in different rooms, so there was no chance of thorough supervision, "witnesses" invited for the search participated in the search together with the officers, the carried bags in and out, went out to talk, etc. (Of which Vlad made an official complaint.) A total of 5 people were making the search, but only 2 are put down in the protocol. The searchers registered that they found "solid stuff wrapped in white paper" and "a small glass bottle of liquid". In response to that Vlad filed a written statement that he has reasons to believe that some things and papers found in his flat may have been put there during the search.

Then Vlad was taken to the FSB prison in Lefortovo, where investigation dept. of KGB is located. He was interrogated as for his familiarity with Larisa, Maria and Gennady and Larisa's attitude and statements concerning Krasnodar governor

Nikolai Kondratenko who is a certified Nazi and anti-Semite.

One of the investigators who dropped in said that he "would like to have more information on Larisa Schiptsova". "Your treatment will depend on that," he warned.

Interrogation lasted for more than 2 hours, but fortunately Vlad was let free and warned that representatives of Krasnodar procurator's office will further interrogate him next week (the "Krasnodar case" is investigated by them, while the Moscow searches were conducted by FSB officers). So far Vlad is considered a witness in this case. FSB planned to conduct more interrogations on February 3 (Larisa's relatives, one anarchist who happened to be in her place at the time of the search).

Please, spread this information as wide as possible, so that it makes further solidarity campaign easier to organize.

There is a big discussion in media and society of the dangers of extremism. Nevertheless, on January 31 about 200 Russian Nazis marched through the North of Moscow while police stopped and watched. Police chief later made public apologies to those Nazis whose documents were checked (this was registered by a TV crew).

Everybody's is talking about putting a ban on Nazi parties, but nothing is actually done to stop the spread of Nazi propaganda. One of the obstacles to the "official" anti-extremist campaign is the refusal of the parliament to adopt anti-extremist laws or even a notion of what fascism is.

On Feb 2 Yeltsin accepted resignation of the general procurator of Russia "for health reasons" and signed a decree which outlines what one should consider "extremism", national or religious hatred and "extremist publication" to be. (However bad the general procurator was, a leading Russian pro-capitalist paper writes, he would have disagreed with introducing these notions through a presidential decree rather than a federal law adopted by the parliament.)

Throughout the last couple of years we also witnessed several cases of terrorist attacks coming from "the left" (Stalinists) - none of them lead to any casualties, most of them targeted monuments of Russian tsars, although were politically motivated. One of the young Stalinists was given 4 years recently in prison for blowing a memorial to the tsar's family, a few others are still being interrogated. Since the origin of the terrorist groups is vague in some cases, there were cases of searches and interrogations of former and acting anarchists in Moscow.

There is increased KGB activities in different fields recently (from "fighting economic crime" to monitoring everybody's e-mail), while at the same time there are attempts to make laws even stricter - soon any picket outside a nuclear power plant may be officially called a "terrorist attack".

- This report is based on Vlad's story with some additional comments by the translator, Mikhail Tsovma.

D O N ' T S N I T C H

"WHEN WE START THIS REVOLUTION, ALL Y'ALL PRO'LY DO IS SNITCH!" THE COUP, 1998

Aaron, a college student didn't stand much of a chance to avoid the police witchhunt evolving in his home town. He was charged with transporting drugs and introducing a seller to a dealer. These individuals were his friends, one of whom is his cousin. They were threatened by prosecutors with life-terms and then succumbed to making a deal to snitch on Aaron. Because they snitched, they served only a few years and probation. At his trial no drugs were ever produced and his friends were the only witnesses. At the age of 20, Aaron was found guilty and was sentenced to 3 consecutive life terms.

The conspiracy law Aaron was charged under is a part of the 1986 crime bill highlighted by mandatory minimums. It makes anyone's word compelling evidence, that may be presumed to be true by juries. Prosecutors can stick the possessors with the mandatory minimums and then get all his friends through the conspiracy law. Of the 15,000 federal drug cases each year and the bulk of them are mandatory minimum cases. Only 10% of all cases are high level traffickers. Since 1986 the federal prison population has increased from 30,000 to over 100,000.

The drugs laws induce snitching and legalize prosecutor bribery for peoples lives. Prosecutors charge those caught red-handed with possession of some quantity of coke or heroine. Then, they induce that person to tell a story of when larger amounts of drugs were "seen" and who was present at the time. Prosecutors are able to nail more people based on spoken testimony without ever producing any concrete evidence. The dealer caught with a quarter kilo gets off with a minimum when he names numerous people and tens of kilos of drugs. Through this pecking order of a story-tail inspired hierarchy, prosecutors descend from just a few people to charging levels of people with conspiracy while diminishing the charges as they explain their story. The closer to the broad base means more charges, longer sentences while the tales grow taller and taller.

Aaron is the victim of this racist, criminal system. He is not a drug kingpin, or even a pusher. About half of all people in prison are doing time for non-violent crimes. Communities effected lack the recognition or concern of the rich fat white legislators passing laws to promote themselves in coming elections for which millions of trees are slaughtered for pamphlets, signs and posters that burn in the Detroit Incinerator the day after the election. Statutes signed in spit steal lives and create communities of indignation plagued with environmental ills and government imported drugs. It's time to put this system and its incompetent leaders in the last landfill where they belong.

"YOUR BROTHER IS NOT YOUR ENEMY, DON'T SNITCH!" MT.TAI, 1993

(The sources for this article can be found at the Frontline new series: www.pbs.org)



I Sentence You

You and You and You

Like little dots, behind the word you

That continue along a straight line, to the edge of a page

Then spill off into the world

Falling upon the heads of the many, who make the word Homo sapiens an over stated analysis

Thinking human being

If they thought, they would see that there is something wrong with people having to pay large amounts of money for bottles of distilled water, in a place people call the water wonder land.

Because they, have polluted the land and the water with Dioxin, and PBB, mercury and lead.

If they were thinking human beings

They would see that their life style is bent on the destruction of all life.

That no number of armies and no number of police will keep us from banding together and stopping the crimes they commit against us all.

No number of attempts to commit genocide against Indigenous People or black youth will stop us from putting an end to their crimes

No new schemes of how to continue the oppression of women, will stop us from putting an end to their crimes.

No new schemes to add to and continue the oppression of poor and working people of all colors and nations will stop us from putting an end to their crimes

For we are thinking human beings and we will continue to come at you, at first like little rain drops that suddenly come out of no where, hitting all over.

That grow larger and more intent by the moment.

That suddenly turn into hail stones that grow larger and pound you all over your body, until you fall to the ground.

Pounding and pounding until you and you and you have little strength left to fight and the lightning bolts come and strike you continuously and put an end to you and you and you and your system of monopoly capitalism.

-Bleekman

H A T E T H E R O L E T H E P O L I C E

Justine and Joel
Blast Collective
Used with Permission

Admit it. Most of the time, if not all the time, you hate the police. You hate the way they hassle people on the street. You hate the way they beat a person and then charge them with "assaulting an officer." You hate the way they single out Black and Brown people for "special treatment." You hate what they did to your friend a while back. You hate what they did to you a while back. You hate the police.

But when asked about what we think about the police, most of us feel the need to get philosophical. "Well the cops are pretty racist and they beat up a lot of folks," we say, "But not all of them are bad. In fact, I know a friend's cousin's stepsister's kid who's a cop, and he's okay. The police have a tough job, it's just a few bad apples who spoil their reputation for everyone."

So here we have it. One's experiences with the police-almost entirely bad-and one's philosophy of the police-a few bad apples spoil the barrel.

The purpose of this article is to prove that your gut feelings are right, and the "bad apple" philosophy is wrong. There might be people who work as cops who are otherwise okay, sure. But there is no such thing as a good cop. The role of the police in this society is not to protect people and enforce the laws, it is to maintain the status quo. Police act as a form of social control over the poor and alienated for the benefit of those in power. "Good cop" or bad, that's their job.

IDEOLOGY OF THE PIC

Cops claim their role is to be the "thin blue line" between individual freedom and social order. Without them the story goes, everyone would step on everyone else's rights, and chaos would follow.

From this ideology arises two purposes of the police. The first purpose is law enforcement. Ask any cop and he'll tell you his job is to enforce the laws that protect persons and property. Of course, cops don't do a very good job at this. They hardly ever catch criminal red-handed (or even try), so they rarely protect persons from assault, rape, or robbery. The most they do is arrest a person after the fact and testify against them in court. So, what they end up doing most of the time is protecting property, and because most of the world's property is owned by a handful of people, most of the time the cops protect the property of the rich. So much for law enforcement.

To maintain the status quo, cops have to protect the property of the rich, but they also have to control the behavior of the

entire population. As sociologist John L. Cooper points out, "Let it be said that the primary function of the police is not crime-fighting, but that of attempting to maintain social order." Cop's main job is to "keep the peace" and to make sure folks behave "in an orderly fashion." This is why the police concern themselves with the minute details of society: the drunks, the purse snatchers, the prostitutes, the speeders, the rebels...

Police make sure people obey the rules of society. But under capitalism, the rules are unfair. They are designed to benefit a tiny minority and exploit the vast majority. Furthermore, some people are defined as

lawbreakers in capitalist society for who they are, not for what they do, and the job of the police is to constantly repress them. In 19th century England, where the modern police first appeared, this permanent "criminal class" was the urban working class. In the United States today, it is Black and Brown people.

THE INVENTION OF THE POLICE

The police as we know them have not always existed. In fact the first modern police force didn't appear until 1829 in London. It is no coincidence that the modern police emerged at the same time capitalism really started to get strong, and in the country where capitalism grew the fastest (England).

Early capitalism required a large, concentrated labor force to work in the factories. Cities like London began to skyrocket in population as more and more poor peasants moved to the cities looking for work. With capitalism comes unemployment, however, and the combination of sudden urbanization and a large group of desperately poor and unemployed people led to an increase in crime in London.

The politicians and capitalists weren't concerned about crime within workingclass neighborhoods (just like they are not concerned with "Black on Black" crime now), but they were scared that crime might spread to their neighborhoods, so they clamored for a better way to protect their interests and to control the poor.

They got their way. In 1829, the Metropolitan Police Act created the first modern police force. But funny enough, the new London police were not allowed to patrol the actual city of London (where, of course, the rich folks lived). Instead, their beat was limited to the working class neighborhoods surrounding the city. From the beginning, then, the purpose was social control of the "rabble." Like an occupying army, the police entered poor neighborhoods to smash resistance and to keep the poor from invading the rich neighborhoods.

The first police hardly bothered with fighting crime. Instead, they focused on regulating the activities of the poor. They immediately began to inspect pubs and restaurants. They required licenses for liquor sales, street vendors, shopkeepers, pawnbrokers, and stable-keepers. They accompanied tax collectors on their

rounds. With all this new regulation, the police found a new way to keep tabs on people in the big cities. Under feudalism, people were tied to the land, so it was relatively easy for big nobles and landlords to keep their eyes on them. But all that changed under capitalism, where millions of people were crammed into the outskirts of cities where no noble could watch them.

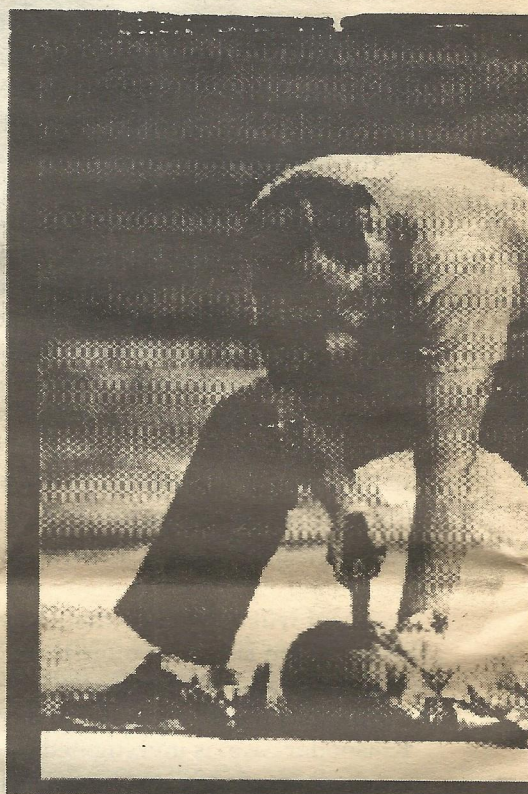
Surveillance was another way police kept an eye on the "rabble." To make sure no one stepped out of line, the London cops developed a system of agents, informers, and snitches-in prisons and on the streets-that acted like thousands of eyes posted everywhere, watching people when the cops couldn't. New technologies helped, too: warrants, lineups, fingerprints, etc. The first cops had to figure out how to exercise power as extensively as possible at the lowest possible cost. Regulation and surveillance were the results of this typical capitalist logic.

Of course, the first police were hated immediately. Police historian Brian Henry writes, "The regulatory

functions of the police became public efforts to prevent crime. The first cop died in the line after the police force was fired after the murders of policemen by workers by coroners.

The English model of the police spread to New England. Not the first modern American police force, but 150 years ago. Other North

But the English model is not the American police force. It was a slave patrol. Just as in England, created to keep the working class in line, America's labor force in line, the pattern of police activity in the



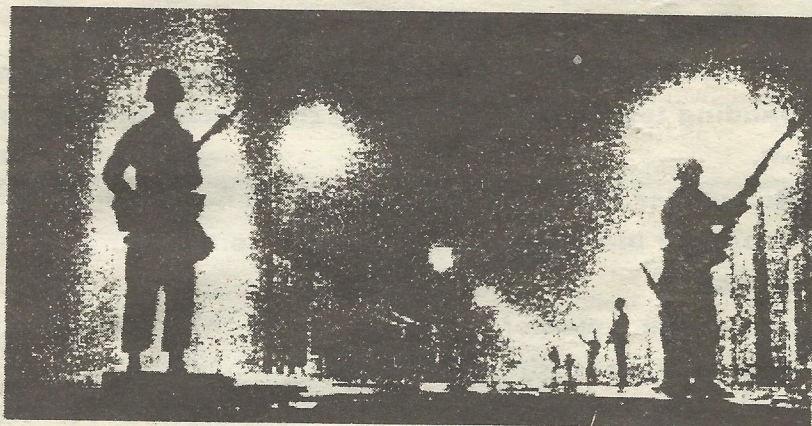
control over the Black population was extended to include other people of color, a pattern that continues today.

POLICING AFRICAN SLAVES

In the early stages of capitalism, settlers enslaved Africans and their natural desire to rebel grew out of successful slave rebellions in Jamaica. Maroons waged a war against the British and declared independence in Surinam. In Brazil, a rebellion by runaway slaves lasted almost ten years. Because the fear of rebellion scared white settlers, they were used to police plantations.

The slave patrols tried to control the population by organizing. Free white men were required to spend time on a patrol. Out of these patrols came committees, which would look for slaves they found in times of rebellion. The slave patrols-made up of white men-protected the "property" of the white people. In guarding all "white" people from rebellion, they protected white owners convinced poor white people were free African Americans. Society free from all forms of rebellion. A combination of defending both white and Black people is the key to white privilege is the key to US.

Of course this is not to say that white people were always shielded from police violence. Black skin is some protection from



POLICE

CE PLAY IN THE USA

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also determines who makes up society's criminal class.
Nevertheless, this doesn't change the fact that police in
the US have historically protected white people and
repressed people of color as a matter of policy.

ILLUSION OF FREEDOM

With emancipation from slavery, Black people faced
job discrimination, limited opportunities, segregation,
and wage slavery. This bred dissatisfaction. As Black
people moved from the plantations to the cities, white
paranoia of Black people's freedom grew and new
forms of repression emerged to keep whiteness in power.
Police harassed and jailed Black people for the slightest
of infractions. Black people were given more severe
sentences than whites for the same crime (sound famil-
iar?).

In the South, fear of losing its cheap labor force
prompted Southern police to prevent Black people
from traveling north by dragging people off trains,
arresting them for loitering, or
stopping trains because of
"mechanical" problems. In the
North, these migrants were
heavily policed, along with
other immigrant communities.
White business owners wanted
their labor cheap and they want-
ed it under tight control.

POLICE STATE VS. INTEGRATION

With the civil rights movement
in the 1960's came a degree of
political reform, but racism and
poverty did not dissolve. There
was certainly no change in the
ways law enforcement related to
Black people. The fact that
between 1965-1968 almost every
big city in the US experienced
civil unrest reflects the level of
frustration of Black people. Of
course, the fact that rebellions

were happening all across the country created a threat
to state power and capitalism. Concern arose about the
most effective way to continue to police and suppress
the African-American population.

After the Watts rebellion of 1965 a commission was
formed to study and analyze racial tensions between
white police and the Black communities they patrolled.
The Kerner Commission determined that the hostility
of police toward Black communities and vice versa was
the major cause of race riots. The commission's report
implied that there were two possible solution to
police/Black community tensions. One was to install a
military presence in Black neighborhoods, like
apartheid in South Africa. The other solution was to
persuade African-Americans that the police
were there to protect them, too.

Police administrators used the findings of
the Kerner Commission to heavily recruit
Black police officers. They determined that
the integration of Black people into the social
order would suppress rebellious tendencies
better than an all-out police state. The goal
was to repress oppositional values coming out
of the ghettos; hiring Black cops and using
"community policing" tactics were the means
to the goal.

BLACK COPS AND COMMUNITY POLICING

The police force needed to come up with a
more sophisticated method to try to keep peo-
ple down. To do this, they needed to maintain
an illusion of democracy. In many cities quota
systems were set up to insure adequate Black
participation in law enforcement. Often these

new recruits were specifically given jobs in Black com-
munities.

Heavy recruitment of Black cops was accompanied
by a focus on "community policing." Police were pre-
sented as providing community services, as opposed to
crime control. Black cops were to play a softer role as
"community relations officers." Ultimately the goal
was to make law enforcement more acceptable to peo-
ple of color.

But community-oriented policing was never ade-
quately defined by police departments, and the idea
that somehow Black cops would be kinder and gentler
to oppressed people was ill-conceived. With the privi-
leges and authority that came with the job came an
arrogance and distance from regular people. Black
police were also used to infiltrate Black organizations
such as the Black Panthers and the Nation of Islam.

Even though integration of Black cops into the force
was chosen over a more military-like police presence in
Black neighborhoods, the motives were identical: pro-
tect capital, the state, private property, and white privi-
lege, while keeping Black people down. This strategy
of an integrated, "community-oriented" police to con-
trol the rabble continues to this day.

Over the years, the methods of social control of poor
communities of color have changed-but the goal
remains the same. Slavery, law enforcement, forced
poverty, and imprisonment are all policing strategies
designed to keep Black people down and out. These
methods have since been applied to poor Latino,
Native American, and Asian communities, as well as
other populations considered potentially rebellious.

Anywhere property or whiteness are threatened, the
police are guaranteed to be there. It's their job.

THERE ARE NO GOOD COPPER

Many people will argue, even if they hate most cops,
that there are some good ones. The problem with this
argument is that it does not recognize the structural
role police play in this society. How can working to
maintain a racist order be good? When a cop kills a cit-
izen, why don't these so-called "good cops" have any-
thing to say about it?

What gets defined as "crimes" in this society are
things that members of oppressed communities do.
For instance, if the poor rob it's a crime, but if the rich
exploit labor and make profits off it it's called "good
business." This is twisted. We need to break out of our
narrow definition of what crime is and who "prevents"
it. What the cops do in our communities is racist at its
roots and defends the rich against the poor.

So go ahead and admit it.

You hate the police!



BOYCOTT
The Thirteenth Amendment.
PRISON LABOR
 Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude,
 except as punishment for crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Microsoft
 Eddie Bower
 Kelly-Hanson
 Planet Hollywood
 Brooks
 Elliot Bay Metal Fab
 A & I Manufacturing, Inc.
 Redwood Outdoors
 Starbucks
 Costco
 US West

Take Back the Earth!



June 18th, 1999

4 p.m. - ?

Hart Plaza, Detroit MI

An International Day of Festival and Protest
 Free Food, Music, Giant Puppets

JACKSON PRISON (DEATH CAMP #1)

I woke up in the night about 3am, sweat poured from my face so rapidly that it ran into my eyes and mouth, then dripped off my chin. My pillow was soaked. Yet oddly enough it was a cold 60 degrees. This was part of the reason I had gotten sick.

But now I was going into crisis. I fell to my knees and began choking. It was dark and silent and the cement floor below my knees was very hard. I tried to scream, but couldn't. I was too short of breath, so short of breath that the move from the bunk to the floor had totally used up all my last remaining strength. I used the asthma inhalers I had and they did not change much of what was happening. I could only lean forward between choking and grasping for air.

This is a real example of what goes on inside the Michigan Department of Corruption, I mean Corrections (sorry). Prisoners that are seriously disabled or chronically ill that may go into crisis in a cell block are at risk of dying before they get help.

I took my lock and began with my last strength to pound against the locker. I had lived through such crisis before so I had not left my fate in the hands of the M.D.O.C. or even the police I knew in the cell block who understood how sick I was.

I had set up with the other prisoners around me to respond to the lick banging, and they began pounding their locker and calling for the police in the block. It took a while but after about five minutes of the ruckus the police came and after much arguing with them between grasping for breath and choking, they finally called the control center and asked if they could call an ambulance.

It was forty minutes between the time I went into crisis and the time emergency help arrived. They put me on oxygen and gave me a massive dose of a bronchial medication via a nebulizer to open my bronchial passages. It slowed down the crisis.

If I had not been strong enough to survive the 40 minutes, I would have died. They would have just declared me dead on arrival. This happens a lot in the M.D.O.C. In fact there was Gypsy in south complex of Jackson prison who was known to have heart trouble. At lock down time he was having trouble, heart pain and asked to go to medical. The police women refused. This was in the summer of 1997. This police woman was known to set people up that she didn't like. Would claim that inmates threatened her or hit her, when in fact no one had done anything to her. Gypsy knew this and had told me many times that he hated her. Being afraid that she would pull some shit, Gypsy locked in like she demanded. She of course said she would call someone, but she did not. In less than an hour Gypsy died. She was never even seriously punished, not even time off.

My heart rate and beat had become totally out to lunch, speeding up, slowing down and missing many beats. I was forced to walk off the gallery in the cell block, held up by two nurses. I should have been taken off by stretcher, but they were too lazy.

When I got to the hospital E.R. (that is the prison E.R.) The doctor in the E.R. was not familiar with prison politics. I had started a class action suit against the prison doctor and the MDOC. So the prison doctor had left all kinds of notes on my file, so that if I ended up in emergency he could do everything he could to assure I wouldn't survive.

I don't know what the notes said. After hours of being in the E.R. the doctor there admitted me to the prison hospital. When in all honesty I believe I should have been sent to the hospital in Jackson prison. Although my two week stay was a living hell. What I found was even worse.

In the prison hospital in Jackson prison in Michigan, they have a maximum security lock unit, where they keep prisoners who are near death. Many who have pulmonary insufficiency and are on oxygen. Many who also have congestive heart failure.

These prisoners are being kept from medical care that could extend their life for years. Mainly because the state refuses to pay the money for care at the University of Michigan. They make it very hard for the prisoners to make calls for the first 30 days, hoping that they will die before they can get anyone to raise a stink about what they are doing.

That hospital is clearly not much different than a Nazi death camp. That's why inmates have coined it "Death Camp #1."

by: Bleekman

COUP REVIEW

THE COUP - STEAL THIS ALBUM
 1998, Dogday Records
 4432 Telegraph Ave. #72
 Oakland, CA 94609
 www.dogdayrecords.com

The Coup are back again with another shotgun blast of politically charged hip hop with Oaktown flavor. This time around Boots and Pam the Funkstress come correct with 12 tales of poverty and resistance for your revolutionary listening pleasure. While their lyrics are always inspiring, the beats flow smooth. Funk for your trunk, sho nuff!

I remember when I first heard the Coup when I was in Minneapolis. It had been a long time since I had heard hip hop that came across with some political consciousness. Public Enemy had lost their power. Then someone turned me on to **Genocide and Juice** - The Coup's second album, and I was reawakened. After reading an inter-

There's certain tricks of the trade to try to halt your defeat like takin' tupperware to an all you can eat, returnin' used shit for new sayin' you lost your receipt, and with 4 figure checks when yo accounts deplete. then all your problems pile up about a mile up, thinkin' 'bout a patnah you can dial up to help you out this vile stuff. Whole family sleepin' on the futon while you clippin' coupons, eatin' salad tryin' to get full of the croutons. crosstown the situation is identical somebody gettin' strangled by the system and it's tentacles. misconceptions raise questions to be solved, lotta D-boys is broke, lotta homeless got jobs. - "Underdogs"

view with them in The Blast, I tracked down their first album **Kill My Landlord** - for, in my opinion, their most unadulterated blast against the pigs. The Coup ain't just rappers - they're also activists and revolutionaries in Oakland, California.

Steal this Album has some soon to be classic joints. Del the Funkee Homosapien guests on "The Repo Man Sings for You." "Underdogs" is a sentimental track shouting out support for "my folkers who got bills overdue." "Piss on your Grave" is a comical rant about defiling the corpses and graves of the rich and famous.

I would recommend this to any of ya'll out there who dig politically conscious hip hop. Support the underground. Support independent hip hop.

-DJ Ruckus
 Vinyl Addict



Tonight there is no moon and no shadows fall as the special police dress for the street sweep of guns and drugs. They wear black uniforms with visored helmets that reflect only the faces of those they see. These faceless enforcers of discipline pursue their job, which is to find guns in deprived areas late at night, in districts where people have little representation and no money for lawyers. In the darkness of repressions' cloak, the National Guard gives them support, providing several helicopters and a squad of soldiers who lower themselves from the helicopters with ropes. No city officials are notified of this exercise. Since there has never been a foreign attack on our mainland and since these are unlikely maneuvers for such an attack, my question to you is "What are they preparing for?" They come without search warrants and they come after midnight. For them civil liberties isn't the issue. What then is their mission? The answer, sadly, is that they are suburban White police doing house checks on Blacks in the ghetto. This isn't South Africa during apartheid; it is inner city Detroit during the late 1980s and into the late 1990s.

With the law establishment on their side and with strong political backing, these puppets of enforcement are able to do what they choose because they know their actions won't be held accountable. They are the puppeteers of the power structure that employs them.

The seeds for this aggression were planted a long time ago. It began in the 1940s during World War II and moved progressively forward thereafter, whenever pockets of the Black community were introduced to heroin. At that time the drug was largely contained and controlled within the Black neighborhoods across the country and mostly used by musicians, artists, street, pimps and prostitutes. Drugs weren't an issue then because the new suburban areas, after the war, were unaffected by them. And today, well, the problem of drugs and their repression is no longer limited to such a small segment of the population. Drug enforcement is now the main tool of apartheid in the United States.

The media plays the card of "drug enforcement" to satisfy the powers that be and those they emulate. The mainstream media, especially television, plays an enormous role in shaping public attitudes and keeping segments of our society targeted for repression, unemployment, disenfranchisement and criminal conviction with high incarceration rates. The media perpetuates and reinforces images of young Black males as the only perpetrators of crime, in the newspapers and magazines and on TV programs like *Cops* and *America's Most Wanted* and other repressively interpreted law enforcement shows. The type of media irresponsibility only fuels white aggression and backlash - which supports the racist mentality which contributes to this country's being an apartheid nation.

In our society, going after drugs is only a symbolic means of controlling minorities through force. The drug variable has been made into a hysterical and grotesque deception of the classic case of the politician inventing a problem to solve so he can ignore deeper societal problems that exist, such as unemployment, racism and other inequalities that exist among peoples, thus ensuring him that he won't have to spend the funds needed to solve basic injustices.

GENOCIDAL & GENERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF REPRESSION

Entrenched generational poverty is a key result of the apartheid attitude within the U.S. CNN reports that 21.5% of the children in this country are brought up in poverty. This figure is the highest in the industrial world. Canada is second at 13.5%; that's an eight percent difference and points out our irresponsibility as a nation towards its youth. The lowest percent of poverty among its youth is reported to be in Finland, at 2.5%. The United States' apartheid stance helps create and maintain the high child poverty statistics that exist in this most rich and powerful of countries.

The major social problem historians will address as they look back on late twentieth century America will not be drugs: it will be racism that will be seen to have held this powerful country back. Ron Harris of the *Los Angeles Times*, in an article in which he interviewed drug warriors, judges, members of the Black community and lawyers across the country, wrote that maybe no one planned it, but

APARTHEID AMERICAN STYLE

by:

**James Divietri
Ali Khalid Abdullah**

the nation's war on drugs has in effect become a war on Black people. Whites do the majority of drugs, but in the media, in our prisons, and in our criminal justice system, the drug problem sometimes appears to be almost entirely a Black problem. Joseph MacNamara, a retired white police chief and author, agrees that the drug war has become a "race war" in which cops, most of them white, arrest non-whites for drug crimes at four to five times the rate Whites are arrested. The drug policy has fostered a hysteria that causes a lot of cops to see non-whites as the enemy even though studies show whites consume most of the illegal drugs.

Drug laws that were put into a criminal category affect the most disadvantaged and most oppressed of our citizens. The problem with this type of apartheid and the criminal repression associated with it is that it overshadows and obscures the real problems of social and economic inequality and failed schools with 50% dropout rates in our inner cities. Federal and state governments claim budget restraints but yet find money enough to finance the repressive arm of a segregationist system. The scope that the drug "problem" has acquired in this country's politics comes in proportion to these serious social conflicts. The failed drug policy causes the nation's leaders to adopt a cataclysmic attitude and use loaded metaphors to overcome it. The



result is that our prisons now house over 1.8 million Americans and are disproportionately filled with Blacks and other minorities. We aren't content to restrict the Blacks to the plantation of the ghetto but now escalated the situation to the point where prisons now encage and separate and use them as cheap labor. This is becoming a major issue and the country's shame - as the world looks on.

Part of the outcome of this is that Blacks and other minority groups have become legally disenfranchised. In many states, once a person commits a felony he loses his right to vote. This has disenfran-

chised 13% of the Blacks in the U.S. as well as over a million Whites. In some states the percentage of Blacks who can't vote because they have a felony on the record is 30% to 40%. In Florida 650,000 Blacks have lost their voting rights. This shifts the power in many congressional districts. Voting should be seen as a "right," not as a privilege, in the way that driving is. The generational effect of this on Blacks in the U.S. over the next 10 years will be that they will be punished even more severely for speaking out and telling the white community the truth about these severe injustices.

WHAT CONSTITUTES APARTHEID?

Let us see what constitutes apartheid and at times crosses into the realm of genocide. The U.S. criticized South Africa during the 1980s and early 1990s for its practice of apartheid. But the U.S. practices its own form of apartheid! One of the tests for judging this is by comparing the incarceration rate of the Black community compared with the White community. Our Black males between the ages of 18-35 make up two percent of the U.S. population - but 50% of the prison population. Author Steven Dukes research confirms that Black men in 1993 were four times more likely to be incarcerated in the U.S. than in South Africa - even during the hey-day of apartheid there. Of every 100,000 Black males in the U.S., 3,109 are incarcerated, while the comparable number in South Africa is 729. The concentration of law enforcement in the Black neighborhoods, largely against our Black men, is in itself a manifestation of genocidal conspiracy. This country is warehousing inner city Black youth and militarizing their communities. It is arresting them at alarming numbers and sending them off to "rural prisons," putting barbed wire around them and hiring the rural White population to watch the caged urban Black youth. In Michigan, small communities that are economically depressed are bidding hard to secure a prison for their region - a practice replicated in other states as well. It serves as an economic shot in the arm. Senator Abraham of Michigan in fact said that this "is a sound fiscal policy." We wonder if he meant that the police state suggests a better fiscal policy than the welfare state? Neither one is the morally correct way to proceed.

The urban ghetto has suffered the brunt of violence, lack of economic incentives, drug overdoses, AIDs and unprecedented numbers of Black men and women in prison because, in part, they lack proper representation.

There are those in the White communities who foster a fear that drug reform would amount to economic and social chaos in the Black urban areas. Many Black leaders accept this analogy and aren't willing to discuss decriminalizing or even debating the drug issue. Jesse Jackson, Rep. Rangle and ex-drug czar Brown believe that lifting drug prohibition would constitute genocide in the Black community. The notion that African Americans lack the capacity to resist their own self-destruction is preposterous; yet it's just below the surface of what these politicians are portraying about the Black community.

Many such as Kent L. Schmoke, the mayor of Baltimore, and Arnold S. Trebach, the head of the Drug Policy Foundation, would make the argument that genocide upon the African American youth is already occurring in the inner cities through the practice of apartheid. They argue that the drug war's disfigurement of American society will endure for generations. The evolution of poverty, hyper-violent neighborhoods and the imprisonment of our Black men will leave scars, just as slavery did when it too broke up families and was seen as a justifiable practice. The sad part of this is that, when these black men find out these truths for themselves, they are punished more severely for their knowledge and for trying to tell the White community the truth about the way life is for them.

This is not a conservative or liberal problem we're speaking of. It is the hidden agenda of apartheid, which is a bipartisan complicity that stifles debate. The leading victims of the current separatist policy are minority citizens of large cities. But to blame the conservatives, the liberals or the African Americans would be to simplify a complicated problem. Racism and bigotry are part of our culture no matter how we try to hide or camouflage it. This kind of mind-set comes from the top down, not

continued on page 15

A Call to Action

On Sanctions and the US War Against the People of Iraq

At the end of 1998, the United States once again rained bombs on the people of Iraq. But even when the bombs stop falling, the U.S. war against the people of Iraq continues through the harsh economic sanctions. This is a call to action to end the war. This month U.S. policy will kill 4,500 children under the age of 5 in Iraq, according to UN studies, just as it did last month and the month before that, all the way back to 1991. Since the end of the Gulf War, at least hundreds of thousands - maybe more than 1 million - Iraqis have died as a direct result of the UN sanctions on Iraq, which are a direct result of U.S. policy.

This is not foreign policy - it is sanctioned mass-murder that is nearing holocaust proportions. If we remain silent, we are condoning a genocide that is being perpetrated in the name of peace in the Middle East, a mass slaughter that is being perpetrated in our name. The time has come for a call to action to people of conscience. We are past the point where silence is passive consent - when a crime reaches these proportions, silence is complicity. There are several tasks ahead of us.

First, we must organize and make this issue a priority, just as Americans organized to stop the war in Vietnam, and to protest U.S. policies in Central America and South Africa. We need a national campaign to lift the sanctions.

This kind of work has already begun, and those efforts need our help. For the past several years, individuals and groups have been delivering medicine and other supplies to Iraq in defiance of the U.S. blockade. Now, members of one of those groups Voices in the Wilderness in Chicago, have been threatened with massive fines by the federal government for "exportation of donated goods, including medical supplies and toys, to Iraq absent specific prior authorization." Our government is harassing a peace group that takes medicine and toys to dying children; we owe these courageous activists our support.

Such a campaign is not equivalent to support for the regime of Saddam Hussein. To oppose the sanctions is to support the Iraqi people. The people are suffering because of the actions of both the Iraqi and U.S. governments, but our moral responsibility lies here in the United States, to counter the hypocrisy and inhumanity of our leaders. Also, there has been a virtual embargo on news of the effects of the sanctions in the mainstream media. For the most part, the American people do not know what evil is being carried out in our name. We must continue to apply pressure on journalists at all levels - from our local papers to the network news - to cover this tragedy. We should overwhelm the major press with letters to the editor and put pressure on journalists to cover the story.

And we must realize this could be a long struggle. Preparations should begin for all possible strategies, including civil disobedience once a sufficient number of people are committed. Direct action that forces a moral accounting likely is going to be necessary. Whatever else we are doing, we should treat this as an emergency and put it at the top of our agenda. Existing groups can work on the issue, new groups may need to be formed, and national networks need to be built. A good central source of information exists on the web at <http://leb.net/IAC/>.

Without action by us, the horrors will go on, the children will continue to die. We must appeal to the natural sympathies of the American people, who will respond if they know what is happening. We must therefore bring this issue, in every way we can, to national attention. The only way to avoid complicity in this crime is to do everything we can, and much more than we have been doing, to end the sanctions on Iraq. This issue must be discussed in every household and every public forum across the country.

The Facts of Death

UN reports on the repercussion of the sanctions

"The increase in mortality reported in public hospitals for children under five years of age (an excess of some 40,000 deaths yearly compared with 1989) is mainly due to diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition. In those over five years of age, the increase (an excess of some 50,000 deaths yearly compared with 1989) is associated with heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, liver or kidney diseases." Approximately 250 people every day in Iraq due to the effect of sanctions. - UNICEF, April 1998.

"The Oil-for-Food plan has not yet resulted in adequate protection of Iraq's children from malnutrition/disease. Those children spared from death continue to remain deprived of essential rights addressed in the Convention of Rights of the Child." - UNICEF, April 1998.

Seven years after the imposition of the blockade on the people of Iraq, more than 1.2 million people, including 750,000 children below the age of five, have died because of the scarcity of food and medicine. - Verified by the UN, June 1997.

"32 percent of children under five, some 960,000 children are chronically malnourished - a rise of 72 percent since 1991. Almost one quarter (23%) are underweight - twice as high as the levels found in neighboring Jordan or Turkey." - UNICEF, Nov. 1997.

"One out of every four Iraqi infants is malnourished... Chronic malnutrition among children under five has reached 27.5%. After a child reaches two or three years of age, malnutrition is difficult to reverse and damage on the child's development is likely to be permanent." - UNICEF and World Food Programmed (WFP), May 1997.

Iraq's health system is close to collapse because medicines and other life-saving supplies scheduled for importation under the 'oil-for-food' deal have not arrived... Government drug warehouses and pharmacies have few stocks of medicines and medical supplies. The consequences of this situation are causing a near-breakdown of the health care system, which is reeling under the pressure of being deprived medicine, other basic supplies and spare parts." - World Health Organizations (WHO), Feb 1997.

"Since the onset of sanctions, there has been a six-fold increase in the mortality rate for children under five and the majority of the country's population has been on a semi-starvation diet." - WHO, March 1996.

"More than one million Iraqis have died 567,000 of them children - as a direct consequence of economic sanctions... as many as 12% of the children surveyed in Baghdad are wasted, 28% stunted and 29% underweight." - UN FAO, Dec. 1995.

"Famine threatens four million people in sanctions - hit Iraq - one fifth of the population - following a poor grain harvest... The human situation is deterioration. Living conditions are precarious and are at pre-famine level for at least four million people." - UN FAO, September 1995.

"Alarming food shortages are causing irreparable damage to an entire generation of Iraqi children." - UN FAO and WFP, September 1995.

From the Iraq Action Coalition: <http://leb.net/IAC/>



Iraqi child in Saddam Hussein Pediatric Hospital in Baghdad. The hospital does not have enough food to provide the needed nourishment for all of the malnourishment little ones under the doctor's care.



Dr. Risun with his 20-day-old daughter. In Yarmuke Hospital

continued from page 5

armed guards (until the mid-1970s the state of Arkansas held some 3,000 prisoners with only 27 civilian employees) and many other functions which required minimal investment by the state. Prison self-sufficiency and excess production for profit largely ended during the mid-1930s when the U.S. was in the midst of the depression and both unions and manufacturers complained about competing against prison-made products on the open market.

One of the laws passed was the Ashurst-Sumner Act (1935) which prohibited the transport in interstate commerce of prison-made goods unless the prisoners were paid at least minimum wage.

Prison labor did not start to become an issue again until the 1980s. Until then most prison-produced goods were either for use within the prison system or sold to other state agencies, license plates being the most familiar example. This began to change with the massive prison building and incarceration binge. In a 1986 study designed to reduce the cost to the government of its prison policies, former Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger issued the call for transforming prisons into "factories with fences." In essence prisons should once again become self-sustaining, even profit-producing, entities requiring minimal financial input from the state.

While some think that slavery- i.e., unpaid, forced labor- offers enormous profit potential for the slave owner, there are historical reasons slavery is no longer the dominant mode of economic production. First, the slave owner has a capital investment in his slave: regardless of where the slave is working or producing profit he must be fed, housed, and so on, in minimal conditions to ensure the slave's value as a labor producer remains. With the rise of industrial capitalism in the 18th and 19th century capitalists discovered that capitalism has its boom and bust cycles characterized by over-production. Thus idle slaves would become a drain on the owner's finance because they would require feeding, housing, etc., regardless of whether they were working. However, if the slave were "free" he could be employed at low wages and then laid off when not producing profit for the employer, the wage slave was free to starve, free to be homeless, and so on, with no consequences for the owner.

Another reason chattel slavery was inefficient compared to wage slavery was that the slaves would occasionally revolt, destroying the means of production and/or killing the slave owner. More common and less dramatic were acts of sabotage and destruction that made machinery, with its attendant capital investment, impractical for use by slaves. So by the middle of the 19th century wage slaves employing machines could out produce, at greater profit for the factory owner, chattel slaves using less easily damaged, more primitive machinery.

The problem slave owners of old faced was what to do with nonproducing slaves. Today's slave owner- the state- faces the opposite problem of having idle slaves who must be fed, clothed and housed whether or not they produce anything of value. The current thinking goes that any potential profit produced by prison slaves is better than none.

Some of the proponents of prison slavery try to disguise it as a "rehabilitation" or "vocational" program designed to give prisoners job skills or a trade which can be used upon their release. This is not the case. First, almost without exception the jobs available in prison industries are labor intensive, menial, low skill jobs which tend to be performed by exploited workers in three places: Third World dictatorships, and in the U.S., by illegal immigrants or prisoners. Clothes and textile manufacturing are the biggest example of this. Second, because the jobs don't exist in the first place the job skills acquired are hardly useful. Does anyone expect a released prisoner to go to Guatemala or El Salvador to get a job sewing clothes for the U.S. market at a dollar a day? Third, if it's rehabilitation then why not pay the prisoner at least minimum wage for his/her work? Fourth it ignores

the reality that the U.S. has at least 8 or 9 million unemployed workers at any given time, many of them highly skilled, who cannot find jobs that pay a meaningful wage to support themselves. So-called "job-retraining" programs are a failure because all the training in the world won't create jobs with decent wages. In pursuit of higher profits- by paying lower salaries- U.S. and transnational corporations have transferred virtually all labor intensive productions to Third World countries.

The U.S. has little problem condemning the export of prison-made goods from China. What makes this blatant hypocrisy is the fact that the same criticism leveled by the U.S. government against Chinese prison-made goods can be leveled at U.S. prison-made goods. Prison-made goods from California and Oregon are being exported for retail sales. In a supreme irony, the California DOC is marketing its clothing lines in Asia, competing against the sweatshops of Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand and of course, China. The Prison Blues brand of clothes, made by prisoners in Oregon, has annual projected sales of over \$1.2 million in export revenues. U.S. State department officials were quoted saying they wished prison-made goods were not exported by state DOC's because it is being raised as an issue by other governments. Namely the Chinese, which have cited U.S. practices in response to criticisms. For their part, the Chinese have announced a ban on their export of prison-made goods while the U.S. is stepping up such exports.

California prisoners making clothes for export are paid between 35 cents and \$1 an hour. The Oregon prisoners are between \$6 to \$8 an hour but have to pay back up to 80 percent of that to cover the cost of their captivity. As they are employed by a DOC-owned company this is essentially an accounting exercise where the prisoners' real wages are between \$1.20 to \$1.80 an hour. Still competitive with the wages paid to illegal immigrant sweatshops workers here in the U.S. and wages paid to garment workers in the Far East and Central America.

Fred Nichols, the administrator of Unigroup, the DOC prison industries, has said: "We want them to work in the same environment as on the outside" in terms of hiring interviews and such. Yet obviously this does not include the right to collective bargaining and union representation.

While the particulars may change, the trend continues towards increased exploitation of prison slave labor. Some states, especially those in the South- such as Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana- still have unpaid prisoners laboring in fields supervised by armed guards on horseback, with no pretense of "rehabilitation" or "job training." In those states the labor is mandatory, refusal to work brings harsh punishment and increases prison sentence served.

In 1977 the Supreme Court decided *Jones v. North Carolina Prisoner's Labor Union*, which removed court protection for prison union organizing. Efforts to obtain the minimum wage for prisoners through litigation have been largely unsuccessful, with courts bending over backward to read exemptions (which are not written) into the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

In Washington the state offers a lot of incentives for private businesses to employ prison slaves. Class I

venture industries pay no rent, electricity, water or similar costs. They are exempt from state and federal workplace safety standards and pay no medical, unemployment or vacation/sick leave to slaves who have no right to collective organizing or bargaining. In a case like this we are seeing welfare capitalism where private businesses is getting a handout from the state at taxpayer expense. One which, will largely swallow the profit paid back to the state under the guise of taxes, room and board, etc., by the prisoner. To the extent that prison slaves are forced to pay state and federal taxes there arises the question, linked to the right to vote, of taxation without representation. If forced to pay taxes like any other citizen, under the guise of rehabilitation or vocational employment, then why not the right to vote given other workers and taxpayers?

Workers on the outside should also be aware of the consequences that prison slaves labor poses for their jobs. Ironically, as unemployment on the outside increases, crime and concomitant incarceration rate increases. It may be that before too long people can only find menial labor intensive production jobs in prisons or Third World countries where people labor under similar conditions. The factory with fences meets the prison without walls.

This article was originally printed in The Celling Of America: An Inside Look At The U.S. Prison Industry by Common Courage Press.

Paul Wright is co-editor of the book, a Washington state prisoner, jailhouse lawyer, as well as a political activist and journalist.

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ACTIVE TRANSFORMATION M@IL CALL

Dear Active Transformation,

My name is Aaron Krizanik. You wrote a little piece about me a while back concerning my case. Thank you. Since that time, I believe, on 1-1-99 myself and five other people who living in cages were taken out of our cell's and chained to beds or strapped into restraint chairs. This occurred because one guard seemed to have come to work with a bad attitude. For a few years now, this county jail has made common practice of using a small black nylon strapped restraint chair for disciplinary purposes. In reaction to our protest of the first brother to be taken to "the chair," the rest of us were dealt with in the same fashion. After four people filled up all "the chair" space, I quickly learned they had altered some beds in admission and release in such a fashion to be able to chain people down. I swear.

My prior experience taught me that whenever prison officials or their employees do something improper to you, they flip the script, so to speak. They make it appear as if you are the one who was wrong. Twice now I've dealt with this and the result being me facing bogus charges. This time it was "riot" and "disorderly conduct."

.....It would be cool if you could mention the restraint chair at the Erie County Prison uses for disciplinary purposes. One kid, Mark States still faces charges of riot and disorderly conduct. Complaints can be addressed to:

Arthur Amann
1618 Ash St.
Erie, PA 16503
or
Judy Lynch
County Executive
140 West 6th St.
Erie, PA 16501

Aaron can be reached at:
Aaron Krizanik
#05982
Erie County Prison
1618 Ash St.
Erie, PA 16503

Dear A.T.,

I am writing you after reading your December '98 issue. I was deeply interested in your column "Immigration News" due to the fact I am a Canadian citizen presently incarcerated in an Ohio prison.

After 10 years of life in Ohio's human warehousing for profit (prison system) I have been denied the right to transfer to a Canadian prison via International Agreement between the U.S. and Canada even though I meet the requirements of this Treaty. Another clear example of the U.S. not complying to treaties they make, ask any Native American Indian! This same denial to transfer is happening in Michigan also.

The claim that persons that are transferred get out of prison sooner may be somewhat true in regards to actual incarceration time but these political manipulations fail to also claim that the rest of the ORIGINAL SENTENCE will be completed under supervision/ parole. Oh let us not forget that the tax burden of keeping these foreign nationals in U.S. prisons will be reduced as will the overcrowding problem.

In 1995, Ohio Senator Karen Gillmor sponsored Senate Bill 252 which was to allow foreign nationals to transfer. There were so many restrictions that no first or second degree felon could apply to transfer yet the International Treaty requires that any applicant have a life sentence. In Ohio the only sentence that carries a "life" sentence is a first degree charge.

After years of letters and requests for help, I was sent a copy of a fax from the Director of Corrections, Reginold Wilkinson (also the outgoing

head of the American Correctional Association), that was sent to Senator Karen Gillmor. Within this letter it clearly states that each state gets \$1200 federal funding for each foreign national in its prisons. It also shows that through the legislative restrictions, 10 out of 200 people are only able to apply to transfer yet the Director has been instructed to not seek any transfers. This is opposite of the directive of the ACA which states as its position on incarcerated foreign nationals, "to seek the transfer of all foreign nationals." This was clearly shown in the amendment to the Anti-Terrorist Act that removed the "voluntary" aspect of transfer and deportation. Now the Federal government is in effect saying, "we don't care if you don't want to go, its no longer your choice."

I have attempted for 4 years to find a way to obtain the Congressional Hearing Minutes created prior to the ratification of the "TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS TREATY" between the U.S. and Canada in 1972. Over 25 years ago! Federal Court action was denied because I was not able to show "Congressional Intent."

So there are a multitude of questions and I'd be more than happy to address any of them.
Respectfully Fighting the Government,
John T. Bragg / 215-337
Lorain Correctional Institute
2075 South Avon Belden Rd.
Grafton, Ohio 44044

Greetings:

Yeah, we just got the new AT yesterday. The focus on immigration and tenant's rights was cool, and the main pieces on each were solid. I think my main criticism would be that there was nothing in the tone of the paper as a whole to suggest closeness to the audience you imagined reading it. (I'm not sure if that's a clear way of phrasing what I want to say. Does it make sense?) Most of the content could have come from Workers World if they had better politics or something, which is cool but not quite what I imagine an anarchist paper should be. hmmm... lets see. Eric's article about kyds being alright was cool, short but sweet, thats kinda the tone I'd like to see more of the paper take up. In the sense that the paper is aimed at coalescing a community of readers, and as anarchists you put yourselves in that community and let people know your position in it as equals among equals in struggle. There's definitely a place for the long, in-depth articles breaking down government policies & such; but for one, that should start from people's everyday lives and relate them up to government policies rather than the other way around, and two, there's a lot of discussion of everyday life that needs to be done from an anarchist perspective that doesn't even need to be related to the 'big issues'. I guess one example would be in the article on immigration / borders, there was a sidebar at the end of the article with three blurbs about people being fucked with by the migra locally. I was thinking it would have been cool if the main article had been based around those kind of stories, and stories of how people effectively resisted, and that story could lead into some of the analysis you dealt with in the longer article.

This is similar to things we've been dealing with with Claustrophobia (& some of why its taken a couple years for us to get a new issue out); it has to do with questioning what the purpose of the newspaper is supposed to be. When you're writing an article about immigration, for example, is it aimed at people who are already activists, to help them understand complexities about the history of the current repression? Or at undocumented people to give information on how to resist the INS goons? Or at other working-class people, to present a sense in which they can sympathize and see the "illegals" around them as part of the same class and community who deserve back-up? I think (though I'm

surely not stating it very clearly) our feeling is that an anarchist street paper should be at least half focused explicitly on building and helping define/verbalize a sense of community among its readers. Which would mean that whoever you imagine reading the paper, write the articles with them in mind & think about how to relate their experiences to whatever subjects you write about.

There's one essay by Wilhelm Reich that we were reading a while that has some really good points about what propaganda should look like. Its in the Sex-Pol book if you can find it. I can't find the exact passage now, but he talks about how 50 to 75% of a paper should be talking about working class people's lives directly, whether criticizing or celebrating. Drawing out some kind of revolutionary consciousness from actions or attitudes that are already there. People generally don't need to read a whole lot of theory to know what the ruling class is doing, and we shouldn't be trying to convince them to waste their time trying to figure out fine points of who in the ruling class is doing what.

OK, I've gone off on more than enough tangents for a three-paragraph letter. Take care. Keep up the good fight. I'd be real interested to hear what your ideas are for the crime & imprisonment issue. Than
Claustrophobia
Baltimore, MD

AT Response: The criticism is greatly appreciated... It is going to be an ongoing discussion, but it is a difficult thing to implement, as we are sure that you realize, doing your own paper and all. This issue may not address a lot of things that you brought up, but the path that we will be taking is stumbling along and fixing it as we go. Hopefully we will eventually get there.

To: activetrans@hotmail.com
Subject: what are you thinking?
Date: Thu, 25 Feb 1999 09:23:25 PST

You people are idiots if you think you can stop the National Socialist movement in Michigan!

From: "mike jolly"
<detroitammers@hotmail.com>

AT Responds: Your solutions to the problems that our communities face are empty. While both the National Socialists (aka Nazis) and the anarchists address the poverty, environmental destruction, alienation, and problems that we all face in our community, your movement comes up with more problems than solutions.

When GM shuts down plants in Flint in their search for greater profit through cheaper wages, you blame the Mexicans that GM seeks to employ, not the bosses and their greed. By attacking working class Mexicans, who should be seen as our brothers and sisters, you serve the bosses interest by taking the heat off of them and putting it on our allies. It is simple divide and conquer.

As anarchist we would propose that we take the fight right to the bosses door. Attack their greed right at its root. If they don't think that treating human beings with dignity and respect is important we should school them on how it feels to have your life turned upside down.

But we should not just stop their, we should be building international solidarity. This will make it so the bosses can't run off to some other corner of the earth to exploit people for slave wages. This will in turn make our communities more economically stable. If the bosses can't run somewhere, they will be forced to deal with us.

This will also make it so more humans will be able to live with dignity and respect, which is our main goal.

The Nazis' stuff should come as no surprise, since your brothers in the KKK have always been in anti-union activity in the south. The KKK in the 60s were scabs to the bosses and also killed union heads to the happiness of the bosses.

In short, your anti-international working class, anti-women, anti-queer politics will lead to a dead end. You will continue to hate everything around you, and thus hate yourself. While we all face the same problems you all need to get your head out the ground and start fighting for real solutions based on a love for humanity.

If not we will continue to fight you.

And you will loose.

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from the bottom up. These factors play a key role in the understanding the race issue of apartheid in this country.

Apartheid is implemented through the severity of the current drug policy that strips us all of our civil rights. It inflicts repression on the backs of the Black males ages 15 to 35, where African Americans constitute 12.1% of the U.S. population. But, aside from that, in a typical year, 1990, 9,744 Blacks and 9,724 Whites were murdered in the U.S. That is a homicide rate of 32 per 100,000 for Blacks and 5 per 100,000 for Whites. 93% of Blacks murder victims were killed by Blacks. Between 1985 and 1989, the homicide rate for Black males ages 15 to 24 increased by 74% to a rate of 114.8 per 100,000. According to the public Health Service, this was the highest rate ever recorded for this group and it's unlikely that any segment of society in our country's history ever had such a rate. This suggests a very grave problem within our social order! When repressive policies are used to bring about social changes they cause more violence and worsen the social and economic opportunities in communities. Sad to say, this is encouraged by the policies of the powers that be.

African Americans are involved in drugs and in crime and are arrested totally out of proportion to their percentage of the U.S. population. Unless this is acknowledged and remedied by both political parties, apartheid will hide just beyond the valley of denial. More Blacks are killed in Chicago and Los Angeles in one year than in all the religious wars ever fought in Ireland or Israel. Figures like these are hidden under the mask of law and order, and are not found in our country's conscious recollection. The press has a hard time covering up our dirty laundry for prolonged periods of time. We as a nation wouldn't allow these cover-ups if Whites were dying at this alarming rate. These sorry facts are denied by Whites because they are so deplorable, so repelling.

STATUTES THAT BREED APARTHEID

Zero tolerance is a metaphor for absolute punishment through the war on drugs to implement apartheid; the words "war on drugs" are also a metaphor to allow the carnage to begin on those with the least representation. In 1994, one of every four Black males was incarcerated and there were more Black adult males behind bars than Whites. Now, the Sentencing Project's Report found that nearly one in three (32.2%) young Black men is under the control of the criminal justice system. In California, nearly half the Black males in their 20s are under criminal justice supervision. If this doesn't scream of targeted apartheid, we don't know what does! These figures cannot lend hope to the next Black generation.

In 1979, one in every ten young Black women were in jail for drugs; in 1986 it was one in eight; after the Feds passed mandatory minimum sentences for drugs, that figure, in 1998, arose to one in three Black women under the supervision of the criminal justice system. The Sentencing Project in the same report noted that nationally, between 1980 and 1992, the number of women in state and federal prisons on drug related charges soared 828%. The majority of women in prison, Black or White, are mothers and hardly fit the picture of the drug dealer kingpins. This is targeted apartheid....and a crime. Black mothers, often addicted and in need of medical help, are forcibly separated from their children and locked behind bars in a system that punishes rather than rehabilitates. In the long run, this will have a far worse impact on society, and on the Black community in particular, than any street drug use has ever had. Regrettably, this is called the 20th century's "deterrent effect."

In many cases the statutes passed by this country's legislator reflect a latent racism. This was the case with the Omnibus Anti-Drug Act of 1986, which discriminated against Blacks in a ruling related to quantities of powder and crack cocaine. For possessing five grams of crack cocaine a person receives a sentence of five years, with no parole. To receive a similar sentence for powder cocaine, one would have to possess 500 grams. That's a 100 to one percent disparity in quantities. Blacks were 88% of all defendants convicted for crack sales and were implicated in 84% crack possession cases. In 1995, Whites made up 10% of those convicted, but

were in fact 52% of crack users. The discrepancies are obvious!

The Federal Sentencing Commission recommended that the inequalities in the sentencing disparities be eliminated. Human Rights Watch (HRW) sent President Clinton a letter on October 25, 1995, arguing, "....A disparity that commits a disproportionate percentage of African Americans to lengthy prison terms amount to a racially discriminatory policy." The Executive Director of HRW told Clinton in his letter that under Article 2(c) of the U.N. Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, "....The U.S. must amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination." President Clinton and the Republican majority in the House blocked equalizing the law.

When a society creates or permits the appearance of racism in its criminal process, it then takes on and reflects the resultant racial hatred and mistrust. The above figures support a venomous stereotype about the criminal propensities of African Americans. This is leading to

social suicide- a prescription to failure and the genocide of a portion of our society in the inner city. This drug policy stands before us as an example only, as only of the many instruments that have been used in recent years for repression associated with Apartheid in this country. We as a nation, to paraphrase Voltaire, cannot "continue to let the best become the enemy of the good." This country's war on drugs is a failed policy, for it has succumbed to the pressure of racism, popular politics and Apartheid American style.

(Special Note: This article is a joint project of two prisoners within the Michigan Department of Corrections. Both prisoners come from different backgrounds. James Divietri is a White man of Italian descent. He was earned his Master Degree in prison while serving out a conviction for drugs. Ali Khalid Abdullah is a New Afrikan (Black man) Anarchist prisoner serving out a conviction for a robbery which he feels was "politically justified." Both men have joined together to write this article because they feel they not only owe something to the larger community but also because they have become, in prison, politically and socially aware of the realities that have landed each of them inside those formidable walls. Both men seek to reach out to others to share what they have written in hopes of awakening the awareness of the people to a growing national problem in this country- the expansion of our prisons, the increasing incarceration of our citizens at an alarming rate, and the fact that this all ties together with issues of race and class, forming a tight knot of national injustice. A list of works cited in this article may be obtained from Cynthia Ritsher, PO Box 554, Lincoln, MA 01773.)

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